

2015

# Journals of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, held 1846 and 1850

Methodist Episcopal Church, South

Follow this and additional works at: <http://place.asburyseminary.edu/mechsouthconfjournals>



Part of the [Appalachian Studies Commons](#), [Christian Denominations and Sects Commons](#), and the [Genealogy Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Methodist Episcopal Church, South, "Journals of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, held 1846 and 1850" (2015). *Conference Journals*. 22.  
<http://place.asburyseminary.edu/mechsouthconfjournals/22>

This Periodical/Journal is brought to you for free and open access by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South at ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Conference Journals by an authorized administrator of ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange.

JOURNALS  
OF THE  
GENERAL CONFERENCE

OF THE  
Methodist Episcopal Church, South,

HELD 1846 AND 1850.

---

LOUISVILLE, KY..  
PUBLISHED BY JOHN EARLY,  
FOR THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH.

RETYPE BY L. JOHNSON AND CO., PHILADELPHIA.

1851.



**JOURNALS**  
**OF THE**  
**GENERAL CONFERENCE**

**OF THE**  
*Methodist Episcopal Church, South,*  
**HELD 1846 AND 1850.**

---

**LOUISVILLE, KY.:**  
**PUBLISHED BY JOHN EARLY,**  
**FOR THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH.**  
STEREOTYPED BY L. JOHNSON AND CO., PHILADELPHIA.  
**1851.**



---

Entered according to act of Congress, in the year 1851, by

JOHN EARLY,

in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Eastern District of Virginia.

---

# MEMBERS

OF THE

*First General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church,  
South.*

---

<b>KENTUCKY CONFERENCE:</b> —Henry B. Bascom, Hubbard H. Kavanaugh, Benjamin T. Crouch, Jonathan Stamper, George W. Brush, Edward Stevenson, Thomas N. Ralston, Napoleon B. Lewis, Charles B. Parsons, John C. Harrison. . . . .	10
<b>MISSOURI:</b> —William Patton, Andrew Monroe, Thomas Wallace, William W. Redman, John H. Linn, Joseph Boyle. . . . .	6
<b>HOLSTON:</b> —Samuel Patton, Elbert F. Sevier, Thomas K. Catlett, David Fleming, Timothy Sullins. . . . .	5
<b>TENNESSEE:</b> —John B. McFerrin, Robert Paine, Fountain E. Pitts, Alexander L. P. Green, John W. Hanner, Edmund W. Sehon, Samuel S. Moody, Ambrose F. Driskill, Frederic G. Ferguson. . . . .	9
<b>MEMPHIS:</b> —Moses Brock, George W. D. Harris, William McMahon, William M. McFerrin, Arthur Davis, John T. Baskerville. . . . .	6
<b>INDIAN MISSION:</b> —Wesley Browning, Jerome C. Berryman. . . . .	2
<b>ARKANSAS:</b> —John F. Truslow, William P. Ratcliffe, Andrew Hunter. . . . .	3
<b>VIRGINIA:</b> —William A. Smith, John Early, Thomas Crowder, Abraham Penn, Leroy M. Lee, Henry B. Cowles, Anthony Dibrell. . . . .	7
<b>NORTH CAROLINA:</b> —Hezekiah G. Leigh, James Jamieson, Samuel S. Bryant, Peter Doub, Robert I. Carson. . . . .	5
<b>MISSISSIPPI:</b> —William Winans, Benjamin M. Drake, John Lane, Lewell Campbell, Green M. Rogers, Andrew T. M. Fly, John G. Jones. . . . .	7

SOUTH CAROLINA :—William Capers, William M. Wightman, Hugh A. C. Walker, Charles Betts, Whitefoord Smith, Nicholas Talley, Samuel W. Capers. . . . .		7
GEORGIA :—Lovick Pearce, William J. Parks, John W. Glenn, Samuel Anthony, James E. Evans, George F. Pierce, Isaac Boring, Augustus B. Longstreet. . . . .		8
WEST TEXAS :—Robert Alexander, Chauncey Richardson. . .		2
EAST TEXAS :—Francis Wilson. . . . .		1
FLORIDA :—Alexander Martin, Reuben H. Luckey. . . . .		2
ALABAMA :—Jesse Boring, Jefferson Hamilton, Thomas O. Sum- mers, Elisha Calloway, Thomas H. Capers, Greenberry Gar- rett, Eugene V. Levert. . . . .		7
<i>Total,</i> . . . . .		<hr/> 87

JOURNAL  
OF THE  
General Conference  
OF THE  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH,  
MAY, 1846.

---

IN accordance with the action of the Convention of Delegates of the several Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in the Slaveholding States, which met in Louisville, Kentucky, in May, 1845, the First General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, assembled in Petersburg, Virginia, in the Union street Church, on the first day of May, 1846.

Bishop Andrew not having arrived, and Bishop Soule not having, as yet, formally adhered to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the Delegates were called to order, at nine o'clock, A. M., by Dr. William Winans, of Mississippi Conference; and Rev. John Early, of Virginia Conference, was elected President *pro tem.*; whereupon he took the chair, and General Conference was opened—religious service conducted by Doctor Winans.

The Secretary of the Louisville Convention being absent, the President called on the Assistant Secretary to receive and read the certificates of election, as presented by the Delegates.

The following Delegates then presented their certificates, or accredited vouchers of election, and took their seats as members of the Conference, viz:—

KENTUCKY CONFERENCE.—Henry B. Bascom, Hubbard H. Kavanaugh, Benjamin T. Crouch, Jonathan Stamper, George W. Brush, Edward Stevenson, Thomas N. Ralston, Charles B. Parsons, John C. Harrison.

HOLSTON CONFERENCE.—Samuel Patton, David Fleming, Timothy Sullins.

MISSOURI CONFERENCE.—William Patton, Andrew Munroe, Thomas Wallace, William W. Redman, John H. Linn, Joseph Boyle.

TENNESSEE CONFERENCE.—John B. McFerrin, Robert Paine, Fountain E. Pitts, Alexander L. P. Green, John W. Hanner, Edmund W. Sehon, Samuel S. Moody, Frederick G. Ferguson.

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.—William A. Smith, John Early, Thomas Crowder, Abraham Penn, Leroy M. Lee, Henry B. Cowles, Anthony Dibrell.

NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE.—Hezekiah G. Leigh, James Jamieson, Samuel S. Bryant, Peter Doub.

INDIAN MISSION CONFERENCE.—Wesley Browning, Jerome C. Berryman.

MEMPHIS CONFERENCE.—Moses Brock, George W. D. Harris, William McMahan, William M. McFerrin, Arthur Davis, John T. Baskerville.

SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE.—William Capers, Charles Betts, Nicholas Talley.

MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE.—William Winans, Benjamin M. Drake, John Lane, Lewel Campbell, Green M. Rogers, Andrew T. M. Fly, John G. Jones.

WEST TEXAS CONFERENCE.—Robert Alexander, Chauncey Richardson.

FLORIDA CONFERENCE.—Alexander Martin.

ALABAMA CONFERENCE.—Thomas H. Capers, Elisha Callo-way, Eugene V. Levert.

ARKANSAS CONFERENCE.—John F. Truslow, William P. Ratcliffe, Andrew Hunter.

A motion to adjourn till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning was lost.

On motion of Benjamin M. Drake, of the Mississippi Conference, it was resolved that we now proceed to the election of Secretary. Thomas N. Ralston was then elected Secretary, and Thomas O. Summers, Assistant Secretary.

John B. McFerrin presented the Journal and Papers of the Louisville Convention, which were received and placed in the hands of the Secretary.

Thomas Crowder presented the following Resolution, to wit:

*Resolved*, That the Editors of the Richmond, Southern, and South Western Christian Advocates be a Committee for Publication, whose business it shall be to supervise all publications of Reports of proceedings, with authority to employ a Reporter. While this Resolution was pending, Conference adjourned, with prayer by John Lane, to meet to-morrow morning at nine o'clock.

*Saturday Morning, May 2, 1846.*

General Conference met according to adjournment, at nine o'clock.

Bishop Andrew, having arrived, took the chair, and opened Conference by appropriate religious services.

The Journal of yesterday being read and some amendments being proposed, its approval was deferred till our next Morning Session.

The following Delegates presented their Certificates of election, and took their seats as members of the Conference, viz:—

ALABAMA CONFERENCE.—Jesse Boring, Jefferson Hamilton, Greenbury Garrett, Thomas O. Summers.

GEORGIA CONFERENCE.—Lovick Pierce, William J. Parks, John W. Glenn, Samuel Anthony, James E. Evans, George F. Pierce, Isaac Boring, Augustus B. Longstreet.

FLORIDA CONFERENCE.—Reuben H. Luckey.

HOLSTON CONFERENCE.—Thomas K. Catlett.

SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE.—William M. Wightman, Hugh A. C. Walker.

TENNESSEE CONFERENCE.—Ambrose F. Driskill.

On motion of John Early, it was resolved that the By-Laws of the Louisville Convention be read and adopted as the By-Laws of this Conference. John Early then moved to reconsider the vote just taken adopting the By-Laws. The motion to reconsider prevailed, and the By-Laws adopted by the General Conference of 1844 were read, and after amending the first rule, so as to make the time of meeting nine o'clock, A. M., and the

time of adjournment 1½ o'clock, P. M., they were adopted as the rules for the government of this Conference.

The venerable Bishop Soule, being present, proceeded to address the Conference in reference to the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South—noticing the history of the controversy by which the Church has been so greatly agitated, and subjected to a jurisdictional division. The Bishop concluded his remarks by stating to the Conference, that according to the provisions of the Plan of Separation, adopted by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in 1844, he now formally declared his adherence to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

On motion of Benjamin M. Drake, it was unanimously resolved by a rising vote, that Bishop Soule be received as one of the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

On motion of John Early, it was resolved that the four stationed ministers of Petersburg and the Presiding Elder of the Richmond District be a committee to arrange for, and appoint the preaching during the session of Conference. On motion of Benjamin M. Drake, John Early was added to that committee.

On motion of Dr. Bascom, it was resolved that Bishop Soule be requested to embody in writing the terms in which he has formally announced his adherence to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and that a committee be appointed to respond to the same by resolution.

The following is Bishop Soule's communication:

*Petersburg, May 2, 1846.*

*Rev. and dear Brethren:*—I consider your body, as now organized, as the consummation of the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in conformity to the "Plan of Separation," adopted by the General Conference of the M. E. Church, in 1844. It is therefore in strict agreement with the provisions of that body, that you are vested with full power to transact all business appropriate to a Methodist General Conference.

I view this organization as having been commenced in the "Declaration" of the delegates of the Conferences in the slaveholding States, made at New York, in 1844; and as having advanced in its several stages in the "Protest"—"the Plan of Separation"—the appointment of delegates to the Louisville

Convention—in the action of that body—in the subsequent action of the Annual Conferences, approving the acts of their delegates at the Convention, and in the appointment of delegates to this General Conference.

The organization of the M. E. Church, South, being thus completed in the organization of the General Conference with a constitutional President, the time has arrived when it is proper for me to announce my position. Sustaining no relation to one Annual Conference which I did not sustain to every other, and considering the General Conference as the proper judicatory to which my communication should be made, I have declined making this announcement until the present time. *And now, acting with strict regard to the Plan of Separation, and under a solemn conviction of duty, I formally declare my adherence to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.* And if the Conference receive me in my present relation to the Church, I am ready to serve them according to the best of my ability. In conclusion, I indulge the joyful assurance, that although separated from our Northern brethren by a distinct Conference jurisdiction, we shall never cease to treat them as “brethren beloved,” and cultivate those principles and affections which constitute the essential unity of the Church of Christ.

(Signed)

JOSHUA SOULE.

Dr. Bascom and Dr. Winans were appointed a committee to respond to the foregoing communication.

On motion of Thomas Crowder, the resolution offered by him on yesterday calling for a committee authorized to employ a reporter, was taken up. H. G. Leigh moved to strike out the words—“with authority to employ a reporter.” Before any action was had on the motion to strike out, L. M. Lee moved the following substitute, viz:—

*Resolved*, That the proceedings of this General Conference shall be officially reported and published.

Brother Crowder moved to amend by striking out the word “proceedings,” and inserting “Journals.” The motion to amend was lost.

The question recurring on the substitute offered by L. M. Lee, after some discussion, Dr. Longstreet moved that it be so amended as to read as follows:—“*Resolved*, That the proceedings of this General Conference, and a synopsis of the debates,



to be regulated as to matter and extent, by a committee to be appointed, shall be officially reported, and published."

This amendment was accepted by the mover of the substitute.

Bishop Soule now took the chair. James E. Evans moved to strike out the words—"a synopsis of the debates." On motion of Thomas O. Summers, the resolution, with the motion to amend, was laid on the table.

Dr. A. L. P. Green then moved the following:—"Resolved, That Bros. Lee, Wightman, McFerrin, and Dibrill be a committee to report the acts and doings of this Conference, and publish the same in the papers of this city." This was also laid on the table.

John Early presented the following resolutions:—

*Resolved*, 1. That a committee be appointed, to consist of one member from each Annual Conference, to be called the Committee on Episcopacy, to whom shall be referred the moral and official conduct of the Episcopacy for the two years last past: and the said committee shall inquire what additional number of bishops will be necessary in the M. E. Church, South, for the next four years, and report to the Conference.

2. That a committee be appointed, to consist of one member from each Annual Conference, to be called the Committee on *Itinerancy*, to whom shall be referred the acts of the several Annual Conferences.

3. That a committee be appointed, to consist of one from each Annual Conference, to be called the Committee on *Boundaries*, to whom shall be referred all matters that relate to the Boundaries between the several Annual Conferences.

4. That a committee be appointed, to consist of one from each Annual Conference, to be called the Committee on *Finance*, to whom shall be referred all such things as relate to the interests of the M. E. Church, South, in the Book Concern at New York and Cincinnati and the Charter Fund at Philadelphia, and who shall inquire into the best means to secure that interest according to the Plan of Separation, and also to inquire into the propriety of establishing a Book Concern in the M. E. Church, South, and the best method of establishing the same.

5. That a committee be appointed of one from each Annual Conference, to be called the Committee on *Missions*, to whom shall be referred all things that relate to Missions, and who

shall recommend the best plan of carrying on our Missionary operations.

6. That a committee be appointed, to be called the Committee on *Literary Institutions*, to whom shall be referred all things that relate to Schools and Colleges in connection with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

7. That a committee be appointed, to be called the Committee on *Revisals*.

8. That a committee be appointed, to be called the Committee on *Sabbath Schools*, to whom shall be referred all things that relate to that subject.

9. That a committee be appointed, to be called the Committee on *Temperance*, to whom shall be referred all things which relate to that subject.

10. That a committee be appointed, to be called the Committee on the claims of the *American Bible Society*.

11. That a committee be appointed, to ascertain the expenses of the Bishops and Delegates, and the best method of defraying them.

The resolutions were read and acted on separately. The first, second, and third were adopted.

The fourth was withheld for the present.

The fifth and sixth were adopted.

The blanks in the seventh and eighth were filled with the number *five*, and they were adopted.

The blanks in the ninth, tenth, and eleventh were each filled with the number *three*, and they were adopted.

The fourth was now taken up and adopted.

On motion it was resolved that the Delegates from the several Annual Conferences be directed, respectively, to select some one of their number for each of those committees which have been ordered requiring one for each Annual Conference, and that they report to this Conference accordingly.

The Conference then adjourned with prayer by J. Stamper.

*Monday Morning, May 4, 1846.*

Conference met agreeably to adjournment, at nine o'clock, and after religious service, conducted by Dr. Lovick Pierce, proceeded to business, Bishop Soule in the chair.

The roll was called by the Secretary, and the Journals were read and approved.

On motion of John Early, the calling of the roll was ordered to be dispensed with hereafter.

The following Delegates presented their certificates of election, and took their seats as members of the Conference, viz:—Holston Conference, Elbert F. Sevier. Eastern Texas Conference, Francis Wilson.

The Delegations of the several Annual Conferences reported the members of the several committees, whose appointment had been referred to them on Saturday, as follows:—

<i>Conferences.</i>	<i>On Episcopacy.</i>	<i>Itinerancy.</i>	<i>Boundaries.</i>	<i>Finance.</i>	<i>Missions.</i>
Kentucky,	Crouch,	Stamper,	Kavanaugh,	Brush,	E. Stevenson,
Holston,	S. Patton,	Sullins,	Fleming,	Catlett,	E. F. Sevier,
Missouri,	A. Munroe,	W. Patton,	T. Wallace,	Boyle,	Redman,
Tennessee,	Sehon,	Driskill,	Ferguson,	A. L. P. Green,	F. E. Pitts,
Memphis,	Brook,	W. McFerrin,	G. W. D. Harris,	Baskerville,	McMahon,
Indian Mission,	Berryman,	Browning,	Berryman,	Browning,	Berryman,
Arkansas,	Truslow,	Ratliffe,	Truslow,	Hunter,	Hunter,
Virginia,	Crowder,	A. Penn,	Cowles,	W. A. Smith,	Dibrill,
North Carolina,	Bryant,	Jamieson,	Doub,	H. G. Leigh,	R. I. Carson,
Mississippi,	Winans,	Lane,	Rogers,	Drake,	J. G. Jones,
South Carolina,	Wightman,	Talley,	Betts,	Walker,	Wm. Capers,
Georgia,	Parks,	G. F. Pierce,	Glenn,	J. E. Evans,	Anthony,
West Texas,	Richardson,	Alexander,	Richardson,	Alexander,	Richardson,
East Texas,	F. Wilson,	F. Wilson,	F. Wilson,	F. Wilson,	F. Wilson,
Florida,	Luckey,	Martin,	Luckey,	Martin,	Luckey,
Alabama.	Jesse Boring.	Levert.	T. H. Capers.	Hamilton.	Summers.

On motion of Thomas Crowder, a line across the house, ranging with the third row of pillars, was fixed on as the bar of Conference.

The Bishop introduced to the Conference the Rev. William Burke, of the Kentucky Conference.

The Bishop now called for petitions and memorials, which were presented by the Conferences in order, as follows:—

*Kentucky Conference.*—A communication was received and read from the Maysville Station, and ordered to be referred to a special committee of five.

*Tennessee Conference.*—Dr. Green presented the report of the committee appointed by the Louisville Convention, to prepare a publication of the History of the Organization of the

M. E. Church, South, which was received, read, and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Also a petition from C. D. Elliott and others, of Nashville, Tenn., praying for the location of the Book Concern of the M. E. Church, South, in that city, which was read, and on motion, received and referred to the Committee on Finance.

E. W. Sehon presented a petition from Samuel A. Latta, and others of Cincinnati, Ohio, praying for the location of the Book Concern of the M. E. Church, South, in that city, which was received, read, and referred to the Committee on Finance, to which committee all similar documents were ordered to be referred.

On motion of Dr. Paine, it was

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Finance be directed to consider the subject of Periodicals, and report what jurisdiction this Conference has over those papers established by the M. E. Church within our bounds—whether it is expedient to continue all of them—and also whether it is proper to appoint or elect Editors at this General Conference.

On motion of Benjamin M. Drake, Conference adjourned, with prayer by James E. Evans.

### *Tuesday Morning, May 5.*

Conference met, Bishop Soule in the chair. Religious services were conducted by William Patton. The Journal of yesterday's proceedings was read and approved.

The following Delegates presented their certificates of election, and took their seats as members of the Conference, to wit:—

*Kentucky Conference*.—Napoleon Buonaparte Lewis.

*South Carolina Conference*.—Samuel W. Capers.

The President called for Petitions and Memorials.

Edward Stevenson presented a communication from J. A. Waterman and others, of Louisville, Ky., praying for the erection of the Book Concern in that city, which was read, received, and referred to the Committee on Finance.

A similar communication from G. J. Pierce and others, of Athens, Georgia, setting forth the claims of said place in the premises, was read, received, and referred accordingly.

The following communication from G. Lane & C. B. Tippet,

Book Agents at New York, was read, received, and referred to the Committee on Finance:—

*New York, May 2, 1846.*

*To the Bishops and Members of the General Conference of the M. E. Church, South.*

DEAR BRETHREN:—As various and conflicting opinions have been entertained respecting the payment of the annual dividends to the Conferences within the bounds of the M. E. Church, South, the Agents of the General Book Concern considered it their duty to lay the subject before the Book Committee for their counsel and advice. Accordingly, at a meeting held at the Book Room, March the 26th, (all the members being present except Rev. M. Force,) the Agents proceeded to inquire,

1. Whether the Book Committee would advise them to pay the annual dividends to the Conferences within the bounds of the M. E. Church, South, up to the next session of the General Conference of the M. E. Church in 1848?

2. If the dividends are not paid, whether they would advise the Agents to retain in their hands a sum equal to the portion of those Conferences, subject to the disposal of said General Conference?

3. Whether they would advise the Agents to pay the table expenses of the Bishops of the M. E. Church, South, up to the time of the said General Conference in 1848?

On the first and third of these questions, the committee were unanimous in the negative.

On the second, they were unanimous in the affirmative.

The Agents, in view of all the circumstances, have concluded to act in conformity to the advice of the committee, and to invest, in available funds, the whole amount that would fall to the share of the Southern Conferences; subject to the disposal of the General Conference of the M. E. Church in 1848.

Very affectionately, your brethren in the Lord,

G. LANE & C. B. TIPPETT.

On motion of Dr. Green, leave of absence was granted Dr. Winans that he may visit New York to deliver an Address before the "American Colonization Society."

The following resolution was then offered, and on motion of L. M. Lee laid on the table for the present:—

Whereas it is highly desirable that various changes and improvements should be made in a new edition of the Methodist Hymn Book, to be published under the authority of this General Conference

Therefore, *Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to prepare such a work for publication, as soon as possible, giving in every case the name of the author of the Hymn, increasing the number of the Common, Long, and Short Metres, by selecting from the authorized Wesleyan Hymn Book, and other approved sources, and excluding some of the Particular Metres, which are unsuitable for the ordinary congregational singing, introducing into the body of the Hymn Book any valuable Hymns now to be found in the Supplement, and dispensing with the remainder—and making such alterations in the method and arrangement of the subjects, as they may deem advisable.

WM. M. WIGHTMAN,

THOS. O. SUMMERS.

A motion to reconsider the vote referring the communication from the Book Agents at New York to the Committee on Finance was lost.

Dr. Bascom presented the following resolution, which was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Episcopacy be instructed to institute special inquiry into the character and grounds of the charge, so repeatedly preferred by the Editors and correspondents of the Western Christian Advocate and the Christian Advocate and Journal, against Bishops Soule and Andrew, to the effect, that they have in numerous instances, not only constructively infringed, but grossly violated, both the spirit and the letter of the General Conference Plan of Separation, in appointing ministers to border charges, stations, or societies, where the people, or members of the church, had not adhered South, by a vote of the majority, as directed by the General Conference; and that said committee report the result of such inquiry to this Conference during the present session.

Bishop Soule announced the names of the members of the following committees:

*Literary Institutions*.—Bascom, Paine, Early, Longstreet, Winans, Richardson, Bryant.

*Bible Cause*.—L. Pierce, Sehon, and Drake.

Dr. Bascom presented the following communication from the Trustees of the Transylvania University, which was received and referred to the Committee on Literary Institutions :—

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of Transylvania University, held on the 17th day of April, 1846, the following resolutions were adopted :

1. *Resolved*, That the proposition heretofore made to the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States, concerning Transylvania University, be made to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and that the President of the University and Chairman of this Board be a committee to communicate the proposition, together with all such facts as may be necessary to exhibit the present condition of the Institution.

2. *Resolved*, That to remove any doubts that may exist on the subject, arising from the fact of the University having been actually conducted on the basis of the before-mentioned proposition, this Board will consider the University as open to be officered by the General Conference, about to be assembled at Petersburg, Virginia, according to the provisions of said proposition, when it shall have been accepted, and the contract consummated by such acceptance.

Attest,

M. C. JOHNSON,

*Chairman Board Trustees, Trans. U.*

*To the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.*

In pursuance of the above resolutions, the undersigned committee would respectfully lay before you, through the hands of the President of the Transylvania University, the proposition referred to, and he in person will communicate to you all information you may desire concerning the present condition of the Institution.

Respectfully,

H. B. BASCOM, *Pres't. Trans. U.*

M. C. JOHNSON,

*Chairman of Board of Trustees of Trans. Univ'y.*

On motion of Thomas Crowder, Conference adjourned with prayer by William Burke.

*Wednesday Morning, May 6.*

Conference met, and, after divine service conducted by Dr. Capers, proceeded to business; Bishop Soule in the chair.

The minutes of yesterday's proceedings were read and approved.

The President called for Petitions and Memorials.

E. Stevenson presented communications from the Wesley Chapel and Brook Street Stations in Louisville, Ky. Conference, in reference to the division of said Conference—which were read and referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Dr. Capers from the Committee on Missions presented their first report, which was read, and laid on the table for the present.

(No. 1.)

The Committee on Missions respectfully submit its first Report.

Your committee have the pleasure to state, that, having taken under consideration the section, (Part II. Sec. 6,) “On the Support of Missions,” in view of the facts furnished in the course of our operations in this department of our work, and with a careful regard to the indications they afford as to what might prove most efficient for the future, your committee have been enabled to agree, with great unanimity, in recommending the several alterations of the said section which herewith follow, to wit:—

1. Passing the first and second items of the Section, without any alteration of them, your committee recommend that the third item be so altered as to read as follows:

(3.) Let each Annual Conference form itself into a Missionary Society, auxiliary to the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, under such regulations as the Conferences severally shall prescribe. And let each Conference Society transmit by its Secretary, to the Secretary of the Parent Society, a copy of its Annual Report: stating, specifically, the number and names of the Missions belonging to the Conference; the number of members of the Church, and of the children catechized, in each Mission; the members admitted on trial, and received into full fellowship, during the year; the number bap-



tized; and, as nearly as may be, the number attending public worship, and of the whole population within reach of the Missionary's appointments, together with the number of meeting-houses on each Mission. And let the Annual Report of the Indian Mission Conference include, in addition to the above, a statement of the number of schools, and of the scholars in each school, under the care of that Conference; and such other facts as shall show, from time to time, the progress and prospects of the work of Evangelizing the Indians. The Treasurers of the Conference Missionary Societies shall send to the Treasurer, or one of the Assistant Treasurers of the Parent Society, without loss of time, whatever balances remain in their hands at the close of the sessions of their respective Conferences, after paying the drafts of the Bishops, proper then to be paid, in favor of the Missionaries of their several Conferences.

2. Passing the fourth item, we recommend that the fifth item be so altered as to read as follows:

(5.) It shall be the duty of the Presiding Elders to bring the subject of our Missions before the first Quarterly Meeting Conference of each of the circuits and stations of their Districts, yearly; for the purpose of moving the Quarterly Conference to adopt such measures as shall be deemed best for the promotion of the cause, by increasing the number of contributors, and the amount contributed for Missions, in their several circuits and stations.

3. Your committee recommend that the sixth item be so altered as to read as follows:

(6.) It shall be the duty of the preachers in charge of circuits and stations, to appoint a suitable person in each class as a Missionary Collector, who shall keep a book, in which shall be enrolled the names of all the members of the class; and who shall collect from each member who may feel disposed to contribute, a cent, or more, a week, or fifty cents, or more, a year, and shall pay over the sums so collected to the preacher in charge, at or before the last Quarterly Meeting of the Conference year. And the preacher shall transmit the money thus paid over, together with such other sums as shall have been collected from the congregations or from Branch Societies, or otherwise, to the Treasurer of the Conference Missionary Society, to be duly reported.

4. Your committee recommend that the seventh and eighth items be stricken out.

5. Passing the ninth item, and the tenth, and the eleventh, your committee recommend that the twelfth item be so amended, as to read in the following words :

(10.) In all places where drafts are drawn in favor of any Missions, if there be funds in the possession of any Conference Missionary Society, where such Mission belongs, the drafts for the support of the Mission shall be paid from said funds, for one quarter, or more, at the discretion of the Bishop.

6. Your committee recommend that the thirteenth item be so altered as to read as follows :

(11.) The Recording and Corresponding Secretary of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, may be a member of any one of the Annual Conferences, with the approbation of the Bishops, without respect to the location of the Parent Society. And there shall be a Financial Secretary, who shall travel extensively through the connection, visiting the Conferences, holding Missionary Meetings, and otherwise promoting the cause of Missions. Both of these officers shall be elected by the General Conference.

7. Your committee recommend that the fourteenth item be so amended, as to strike out so much of the last sentence of the item, as provides for estimating the expenses of the Superintendent of the Indian Mission, and insert the following : His table and other expenses shall be estimated by the Board of Managers of the Parent Society, or by a committee of that Board ; for which he shall have authority to draw on the Treasurer in quarterly instalments.

8. Your committee recommend that the fifteenth item be amended by inserting the words, *other orthodox Churches*, in place of the words, the Wesleyan Methodist Conference.

All which is respectfully submitted.

W. CAPERS, *Chairman*.

Dr. Smith, from the Committee on Finance, reported in part, as follows, viz :—

The Finance Committee beg leave to submit the following report, in relation to a Southern Book Establishment, viz :

Having maturely considered the subject, we are of the opinion

that it is expedient that a Book Concern be established by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, consisting of two divisions, —one in the East, and the other in the West.

Respectfully submitted.

W. A. SMITH, *Chairman*.

Laid on the table for the present.

Whitefoord Smith, of South Carolina Conference, presented his certificate of election, and took his seat as a member of Conference.

Bishop Andrew now took the chair.

William M. Wightman presented the report of the committee appointed by the Louisville Convention to conform the Discipline to the Southern organization, which, on motion, was laid on the table for the present.

Samuel S. Bryant moved to publish one hundred copies of the Report of the Committee on Missions, and one hundred copies of the Report of the Committee on Revisals appointed by the Louisville Convention. Thos. N. Ralston moved to strike out the Report of the Committee on Revisals. The amendment was carried; and the motion, as amended, was laid on the table.

The Report of the Committee on Finance was, on motion of Wm. A. Smith, taken up and adopted.

On motion of Dr. Capers, the Report of the Committee on Missions was taken up, read, and compared with the sixth section of the second part of the Discipline. It was then acted upon paragraph by paragraph.

The first paragraph was read and adopted—a motion of H. G. Leigh to substitute “churches” for “meeting-houses” having been lost.

The second, third, and fourth paragraphs were read and adopted.

The fifth paragraph was read, and, on motion of John B. McFerrin, amended and adopted. The amendment consists in adding the words—“except such as have been worn out in the Indian Mission Conference”—to the tenth item of the said sixth section of the second part of the Discipline.

The sixth paragraph being read, Samuel S. Bryant moved to strike out that part which relates to the appointment of a Financial Secretary. On motion of John B. McFerrin, the sixth paragraph was laid on the table.

The seventh paragraph was read and adopted.

The eighth paragraph being read, John B. McFerrin moved to strike out the words, "they shall not interfere in their respective charges any further than to help them in their work when requested"—in the last item of the sixth section of the second part of the Discipline. Dr. Bascom moved to amend the amendment, so that the said fifteenth item may read as follows:—"It shall be the duty of the Bishops to instruct all our Missionaries that whenever they come in contact with any of the Missionaries belonging to other Protestant Orthodox Churches, they shall, on all occasions, cultivate, as far as practicable, a spirit of friendship and brotherly affection, as brethren engaged in the same common cause, viz:—the salvation of the world by grace, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ." This amendment was admitted by Br. McFerrin, and then adopted.

The sixth paragraph which had been laid on the table, was then taken up. The paragraph being divided, Benjamin M. Drake moved that the portion referring to the appointment of a Corresponding and Recording Secretary, be amended by striking out the words *Corresponding and Recording*. This motion being carried, the second part of the paragraph was then read. Samuel S. Bryant moved to strike it out. Dr. Capers moved the recommittal of the sixth paragraph. This motion obtained.

H. G. Leigh moved the following resolution, which was not adopted:

*Resolved*, That \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the rules and orders of the General Conference, the Standing Committees, and a Directory be published for the use of the Conference, and such persons as may wish to have them.

Bishop Soule then announced the following committees:

*On Revisals*.—Messrs. Ralston, Hamilton, Harris, Talley, and Crowder.

*On Temperance*.—Messrs. Pitts, H. G. Leigh, and Linn.

*On Expenses of the Delegates*.—Messrs. Anthony, Sevier, and Boyle.

*On the Maysville Memorial*.—Messrs. J. B. McFerrin, S. Patton, Betts, Wallace, and Harrison.

On motion of A. Munroe, John H. Linn was added to the Committee on Literary Institutions.

On motion of John Early, the Conference adjourned, with prayer by James E. Evans.

*Thursday Morning, May 7.*

Conference met, and after religious services, conducted by W. Browning, proceeded to business; Bishop Soule in the chair.

The Journals were read and approved.

Dr. Winans from the Committee on Episcopacy, presented their first report, as follows:—

The Committee on Episcopacy beg leave to submit as their first Report, that, considering it of great importance to the interests of the Church, they recommend that two additional Bishops be elected.

Respectfully submitted,

May 7, 1846.

WILLIAM WINANS, *Chairman.*

B. M. Drake moved its reception and adoption, and that the Conference proceed immediately to the election of the Bishops.

A division being called for, the question was taken on the motion to receive and adopt the report of the committee.

Dr. Longstreet moved to amend the report by striking out the number *two*, and inserting the number *one*. The vote was taken on the motion to strike out the number *two*, and lost.

The question was then taken on that part of B. M. Drake's resolution, relating to the reception and adoption of the report, and carried.

The question then being on the latter part of the resolution, proposing to enter immediately upon the election, H. G. Leigh moved as a substitute that the election take place to-morrow morning. The substitute was not adopted.

The latter part of the resolution of B. M. Drake was then passed.

The Bishops were requested by the Conference to lead in prayer, previously to the election.

Bishop Soule gave out the first two stanzas of the 457th Hymn:—

“ Father, if justly still we claim  
To us and ours the promise made,  
To us be graciously the same,  
And crown with living fire our head:

Our claim admit, and from above,  
Of holiness the Spirit shower,  
Of wise discernment, humble love,  
And zeal, and unity, and power."

These admirable lines being sung by the Conference, the venerable senior Bishop engaged in prayer, after which, as Bishop Andrew wished to be excused (in consequence of affliction) from leading in devotion, Bishop Soule called on Dr. L. Pierce, who also addressed the throne of grace.

The Conference then entered upon the election, by ballot, of two Bishops. On the second balloting, Dr. William Capers, of the South Carolina Conference, and Dr. Robt. Paine, of the Tennessee Conference, both having received a majority of the whole number of votes, were declared duly elected Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

On motion of J. Early, it was resolved that the necessary arrangements be made for the ordination of the Bishops elect, on next Thursday, at twelve o'clock, in the Washington Street Church.

Dr. Capers then presented the second Report of the Committee on Missions, which was read, and laid on the table for the present.

The report reads as follows :—

#### REPORT No. 2.

The Committee on Missions respectfully report that it appears to your committee to be highly desirable to have a Catechism published, which should be adapted to the purpose of communicating a knowledge of the doctrines, principles, and duties of our holy religion to the children and others requiring catechetical instruction in our Missions. There has been a short and simple catechism of this description many years in use among our domestic Missions. And under a resolution of the South Carolina Conference, at its last session, it is proposed to extend this Catechism, by composing a second part, to comprise a brief outline of the history of Redemption. This second part is now almost completed, and together with the first, has been submitted to your committee, the author desiring to make it the property of the Church without price, if approved.

Your committee approve of it cordially, and recommend that the author be requested to finish it without loss of time, and give it into the hand of such person or persons, as shall be appointed by this General Conference to act as agent or agents for the publication of books for the use of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

All which is respectfully submitted.

W. CAPERS, *Chairman.*

Dr. Capers also presented the report of the same committee in reference to the matter recommitted to them, on yesterday.

The first part ending with the words—"under the direction of the Board"—was adopted.

The Committee on Missions, to whom was recommitted the sixth item of their Report No. 1, having duly considered the same, respectfully report :

That it appears to your committee both from what was said in Conference, and from their own free conversations on the subject, that nothing better can be done in the present state of the Missionary work, and at this early stage of our separate organization, than to adopt the following, in place of the above mentioned sixth item, to wit:—

6. The Secretary of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, shall reside at the place where the Parent Society is located, but may be a member of any one of the Annual Conferences, with the approbation of the Bishops. It shall be his duty to journalize the proceedings of the Parent Society, and of the Board, and to conduct their correspondence—to advise the Board of any matters which he may conceive important—to give the Missionaries any information that may be deemed necessary—to publish in the Church papers a condensed account of the Missionary work as often as practicable—and to prepare the annual report of the Society under the direction of the Board.

There shall also be a General Missionary Agent, who shall travel extensively through the connection, visiting the Conferences, holding Missionary meetings, and otherwise promoting the financial interests of the Society.

He may be a member of any of the Annual Conferences with the approbation of the Bishop.

Both of these officers shall be elected by the General Conference, to which also they shall be responsible for the discharge of their duties. Their salaries shall be apportioned by the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society.

In case of vacancy occasioned by death, resignation, or otherwise, the office shall be filled by the Board of Managers, by and with the advice and consent of one or more of the Bishops, until the ensuing General Conference.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. CAPERS, *Chairman.*

S. S. Bryant moved to amend the report by striking out all of the report relating to the appointment of a General Agent.

Dr. Winans moved to lay the motion to strike out, and so much of the report as relates to the General Agent, on the table—which motion to lay on the table prevailed.

Thomas Crowder asked leave of absence for himself and three other delegates, that they might visit Norfolk for the purpose of preaching. The request was not granted.

On motion of L. M. Lee,

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Missions be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a mission or missions to the Jews, in the cities and towns within the jurisdiction of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

It was then moved as follows:—

*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed with instructions to digest and bring forward as early as possible, a plan for raising money for the support of all the benevolent operations sustained by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

L. PIERCE,

THOS. O. SUMMERS.

This resolution was laid on the table for the present.

Dr. Bascom presented the report of the committee appointed to respond by resolution to the communication of Bishop Soule, which was adopted, as follows:—

The committee appointed to draft a response to the communication from Bishop Soule report the following for adoption by the Conference:

Whereas the Rev. Joshua Soule, D. D., senior Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, has addressed a communication



to the General Conference of the M. E. Church, South, now in session in Petersburg, Va., bearing date the 2d inst., in which he *formally declares his adherence to the M. E. Church, South*, in accordance with the right secured to him by the Plan of Separation, adopted by the General Conference of the M. E. Church, at its last session in 1844:

Therefore *Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences of the M. E. Church, South, in General Conference assembled, that fully agreeing with Bishop Soule, as it regards his right of action in the premises, by authority of the General Conference of 1844, we cheerfully and unanimously recognise him as Bishop of the M. E. Church, South, with all the constitutional rights and privileges, pertaining to his office, as Bishop of the M. E. Church.

H. B. BASCOM,  
WM. WINANS.

*Petersburg, Va., May 6, 1846.*

The Committee on Itinerancy reported, in part, as follows:—

The Committee on Itinerancy beg leave to report, in part, that they have examined the Journals of all the Conferences represented in the General Conference, as far as they have been furnished, and have found nothing contrary to Methodist discipline and usage. The committee recommend the following change in the Discipline—On page 27, in second answer to the question, What are the duties of a Bishop? The committee propose to strike out the words—“also the preacher or preachers that may be stationed in the city of New Orleans.” In section fifth, on page 32, in the answer to question fourth, the committee recommend the Conference to strike out all after the word “successively.”

Respectfully submitted:

G. F. PIERCE, *Chairman*.

This report was laid on the table for the present.

The following resolution was then adopted:—

*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed by the Bishops to draft a Pastoral Address, at their earliest convenience.

F. G. FERGUSON,  
W. M. WIGHTMAN.

The following resolutions were then offered:—

1. *Resolved*, That the Committee on Itinerancy be in-

structed to inquire whether any evil has arisen or is likely to arise from improperly dividing our work into small circuits, or from the creation of small stations not able to support a man with a family; and if so, to recommend what in their judgment may be the best remedy.

2. *Resolved*, That the same committee be instructed to prepare and report to this Conference, a set of questions to be used by the Bishops in the annual examinations of character, to be propounded to each preacher, if in their judgment they think best.

ANDREW MONROE,  
W. W. REDMAN.

These resolutions were referred to the Committee on Itinerancy, after a motion to lay the second on the table had been withdrawn.

The Conference then adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

*Friday Morning, May 8.*

Conference met at the usual hour; opened with divine service, conducted by S. Patton. Bishop Andrew in the chair.

The Journals were read and approved.

No committee being ready to report, the call was made for Petitions and Memorials.

Dr. Capers presented a communication referred to this General Conference by resolution of the South Carolina Conference—it being the report of the Committee of said Conference on “the Work of Evangelizing the People of Color”—which was read, and referred to the Committee on Missions.

On motion of John Early, it was resolved that Bishop Soule be requested to preach a Sermon on Thursday next, in connection with the ordination of the Bishops elect.

A. Dibrell moved that the Bishops of the M. E. Church, South, be authorized to appoint a Chaplain to the University of Virginia, whenever requested to do so by the Virginia Conference.

Dr. Longstreet moved to amend the resolution so as to make it read thus:—“that the Bishops of the M. E. Church, South, be authorized to appoint a Chaplain to any Literary Institution, not under the direction of the M. E. Church, South, whenever

requested by the Annual Conference within whose bounds such Institutions may be located." The motion to amend was withdrawn, and the resolution then passed, and the Secretary was directed to furnish the Secretary of the Virginia Conference with a copy thereof.

G. W. Brush moved as follows, viz:—

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be and are hereby instructed to inquire into the possibility of reporting such changes in the *arrangement* of the chapters, sections, and paragraphs of the Book of Discipline, as in their judgment will relieve it from the ambiguity of the present arrangement; yet, so as not thereby to produce any change in the meaning, only so far as to conform the Discipline to the Southern organization.

The resolution was adopted and referred accordingly.

Whitefoord Smith moved to take up the resolution, which had been laid on the table, in reference to the appointment of a committee to publish a revised edition of the Hymn Book. The motion to take up the resolution prevailed. J. Stamper moved that the said committee be instructed to report to this Conference within six days, what particular metre hymns they propose to exclude.

Dr. Longstreet moved to amend the amendment, so as to require that three of the four Bishops shall examine and approve the Book, before it shall be published. The amendments were withdrawn, and the original resolution was adopted.

The report of the Committee on Itinerancy was called up, and then laid on the table.

The resolution offered by Dr. Lovick Pierce on yesterday, calling for a committee to draft and report a plan for raising funds for our benevolent operations was taken up, and adopted.

T. Crowder presented the second report of the Committee on Episcopacy, as follows:—

The Committee on Episcopacy present their second Report, to wit:—

In order to provide in the most practicable method in the judgment of your committee for raising the family expenses of our Bishops, we recommend the following alterations of our Discipline, to wit:

1. Part second, section first, page 162, last paragraph, after

the word "*orphans*," insert the words, "*their house-rent, fuel, and table expenses*."

2. Part second, section five, page 182, strike out all of the last paragraph, and instead thereof insert the following: "At each quadrennial session of the General Conference of the M. E. Church, South, the Committee on Episcopacy shall make an estimate of the amount necessary to furnish a house, fuel, and table expenses, for each of our Bishops, for the next ensuing four years, and shall apportion the same to the Annual Conferences severally, according to the pecuniary ability of said Conferences. And the Annual Conferences shall, by such plan as they may adopt, raise the said apportionments, and punctually pay them over to the Bishops in four equal annual instalments, at the time of holding the said Conferences."

3. We would further report in relation to the travelling expenses of the Superintendents yet unprovided for, that the General Conference assume and pay such expenses as follows, viz: To Bishop Soule the sum of \$218:30, and to Bishop Andrew the sum of \$55:00, being the amount justly due to them on that account. And the committee would further recommend the General Conference to request the Bishops to make application at the next General Conference of the M. E. Church, for the payment of their several claims for excess of travelling expenses from the funds of the Book Concern, at New York.

All which is respectfully submitted.

W. WINANS, *Chairman*.

This report was laid on the table for the present.

Leave of absence was granted to T. Crowder, and two other delegates, that they might visit Norfolk and other places for the purpose of preaching.

The report of the Committee on Itinerancy was taken up. John Lane moved to lay on the table indefinitely, that part of the report relating "to the preacher or preachers that may be stationed in New Orleans."

This motion was lost.

On motion of John Early, that portion of the report was laid on the table for the present. The remainder of the report was then adopted.

The Conference then adopted the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Finance be instructed to digest a plan for the promotion of uniformity in the price of our periodicals, the regulation of agencies, the emission of free papers, and for the general welfare of our publications.

LEROY M. LEE,  
J. B. McFERRIN.

Benjamin M. Drake offered the following resolution, which was laid on the table:—

*Resolved*, That the words in the Discipline, section 4, page 27, commencing with the words—“*he shall not continue*”—and ending with the words, “*four years*”—be stricken out.

The Bishop announced the following Committees:—

*On the Pastoral Address*.—Dr. Bascom, Dr. Capers, and A. Penn.

*On a Financial Plan for our Benevolent Operations*.—Dr. L. Pierce, Dr. Hamilton, E. W. Sehon, J. Early, and W. M. Wightman.

On motion of Leroy M. Lee, Conference adjourned, with prayer by Alexander Martin.

### *Saturday Morning, May 9.*

Conference met at the usual hour, and after religious services, conducted by Moses Brock, proceeded to business. Bishop Soule in the chair.

The Journals were read and approved.

Dr. Capers presented the third and fourth reports of the Committee on Missions, which were read, and laid on the table for the present.

Dr. G. F. Pierce, from the Committee on Itinerancy, presented a further report, which was recommitted—a motion by J. B. McFerrin to adopt the first part being withdrawn.

Dr. W. A. Smith, from the Committee on Finance, presented a further report, being an answer to the communication from Lane & Tippet, Book Agents at New York, which was read, and Alexander Martin moved to amend the report. On motion of B. M. Drake, the proposed amendment was laid on the table, and the report was adopted, as follows—the Secretary being instructed to transmit a copy of the answer to Messrs. Lane & Tippet:—

The Finance Committee to whom was submitted the communication of Messrs. Lane & Tippet, of New York, with instructions to draft a suitable reply, report:

That we have carefully examined the Plan of Separation adopted by the General Conference of 1844, and consider the following response all that is dictated by prudence, under existing circumstances, viz:—

MESSRS. LANE & TIPPETT:—*Dear Brethren,*—We very deeply regret to learn that a sense of duty induces you to withhold from our supernumerary and superannuated preachers and their families, and the widows and orphans of deceased preachers, that share of the proceeds of the property of the Church under your management, to which they are entitled by the highest and most obligatory claims of justice.

The ground of your decision we suppose to be, that the Plan of Separation does not authorize the payment of the dividends in question, only provided the Annual Conferences should concur by a constitutional majority in a change of the sixth restrictive article. But we object to this on three considerations.

1. It is merely *assumed* that the Annual Conferences did, by their votes, virtually annul the vote of the General Conference changing the sixth restrictive article. But as you are the authorized agents to act under the decision of the General Conference in the premises, we certainly have a right to consider that you would procure the official returns of the votes of the several Annual Conferences, and show, in behalf of yourselves and the Book Committee, to whose counsel you submitted the question, by whose decision you are pleased to govern your action, that they had, by a specific vote, refusing concurrence in a change of the sixth restrictive article, annulled the decision of the General Conference. Yet you exhibit no such justification: nor are we aware that any such official returns exist, and if they exist, that, correctly understood, or understood as interpreted by the Conferences giving them, they would justify your decision; we may, therefore, safely regard your assumption, that the Annual Conferences annulled the decision of the General Conference, as resting upon a very vague and indefinite construction of the votes of the several Annual Conferences, and the withholding of our money under such circumstances as a measure of extremely questionable propriety.

2. The sixth resolution of the Plan of Separation provides that "until the payments are made, the Southern Church shall share in all the net profits of the Book Concern." All who are acquainted with the history of the Plan of Separation are familiar with the fact, that the clause was introduced to secure the payment of our interest in the "net profits of the Book Concern," *if, for any cause*, the payment of our interest in the *capital* of the concern should be delayed. The majority in the General Conference of 1844 were understood to offer this proviso, in good faith, as a sufficient security to us, and in good faith it was accepted by the Southern delegates in that body. The withholding of our dividends, therefore, in the face of this proviso, made for the special purpose of guaranteeing our rights in any possible emergency that might arise, is a plain breach of the agreement entered into by the high contracting parties in this case, and therefore a palpable violation of good faith. And although it should be maintained that this construction of the clause in question gives to it rather more latitude of meaning than a strict construction of the language, in its connection, will warrant, yet it must be admitted that the *intention* was to secure to us our interest in the profits, until the last dollar of our claim upon the capital be paid.

3. The express design of the Plan of Separation—the fundamental principle upon which it proceeds, as declared in the preamble to the resolutions of the Plan, is, that our claim to a portion of the capital and its proceeds, is a just one, and that it was the duty of the General Conference to divide with us on principles of the "*strictest equity*." Now, what though it be allowed that the particular expedient, by which the General Conference sought to secure our rights in the premises, that is, by a change of the sixth restrictive article of the discipline, did miscarry, does that invalidate the principle of equity which pervades the whole Plan of Separation, and on which it is based, or vitiate our right to our portion of the capital, and the proceeds, as acknowledged by the highest judicatory of the Church to be founded in justice? Certainly not. For should it be allowed that the attempt to effect a change in the sixth restrictive article did fail, it only follows that you are not authorized to divide the capital of the Concern under your management until farther adjudication of the matter be had; but it certainly

does not follow that our rights in the capital and, by consequence, in the proceeds thereof, are in the least degree affected thereby. On the contrary, our rights remaining as accredited by the solemn declaration of the General Conference, we should continue, as formerly, to draw our dividends, until further arrangements shall be made. By what authority, we then ask, have the mere agents of the General Conference, which has most unquestionably not only admitted but asserted our rights in both the capital and proceeds of the Book Concern, presumed to withhold from us our share in the profits of said Concern? Have we forfeited our rights, thus accredited by the General Conference, by erecting ourselves into a separate Church? Unquestionably not. For the General Conference also acknowledged our right to do this, by declaring it to be their duty to provide for such an emergency, by an equitable distribution of the property which we then held in common. That their plan to accomplish an equitable division of the property failed, so that we cannot receive our portion as early as was desired, cannot in the least degree affect our rights, or confer upon you the least authority to withhold from us our share in the proceeds of that capital, which is acknowledged to belong to us in common with others.

Allow us, then, to remind you, dear brethren, that in a case in which we are sure you, personally, do not presume to question the justice of our claim, nothing short of the express and clearly defined provisions of law should have been permitted to control your agency in withholding from us, and our very needy brethren, what is justly due us and them. And to call your attention to the still higher moral grounds on which the justice of our claim cannot fail to appeal to your consciences with increased force, permit us to remind you of the Book Concern in ashes in 1836—to go no farther back in its history. Whence was the far larger portion of the money collected, by which your splendid edifices were erected? Whence have you realized the far larger portion of those profits by which you have divided from eight hundred to one thousand dollars per annum to the Conferences, and swelled your capital to the gross sum of *seven hundred thousand dollars*? But one answer, you well know, with your books before you, can be given to these questions. Southern and South Western men chiefly contributed to rebuild



that Concern; and Southern and South Western trade mainly contributed to raise it to its present position of pecuniary profit and moral influence. All these facts, uniting to proclaim and enforce the justice of our claim, must render it a dangerous experiment in the science of morals to deny us a single shilling of what is our due. The bare attempt at so unholy an achievement, it does appear to us, must lie as a burden to afflict the consciences of any of the good men concerned, until the opportunity shall come round to do justice to themselves and justice to us.

We therefore duly appreciate your object in proposing to "invest in available funds, for our benefit, the whole amount that would fall to our share;" and hope that you will fully realize your kind purpose. We feel assured that if the same sense of justice and kind feeling which we trust influences you, should preside in the counsels of the Church, North, in 1848, there will be no difficulty in securing our just rights. You, therefore, will please understand that we do not relinquish our rights in the Book Concern under your management, but claim our full share of both the capital and its annual proceeds until there shall be a final settlement; nor do we relinquish the hope that a sense of justice will prevail with our Northern brethren, which shall in due time secure to us an equitable division of the property in question.

Very affectionately,

WILLIAM A. SMITH,  
*Chairman Com. on Finance.*

*Petersburg, Va., May 9, 1846.*

J. B. McFerrin presented the report of the Committee on the communication from the Maysville Station, which was read and adopted, as follows:

The committee to whom was referred the communication from the official members of the Maysville Station, beg leave to report, that after a careful examination of the memorial, and a free conversation with the Presiding Elder of the Maysville District, they sympathize with the memorialists, and are of opinion that their brethren in more favoured circumstances should afford them pecuniary aid. Your committee, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following preamble and resolutions, viz:—

Whereas, the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in the town of Maysville, Kentucky, who have adhered by vote to the Southern organization according to the Plan of Separation adopted by the General Conference of 1844, have incurred heavy pecuniary responsibilities; and whereas, by a prudent and becoming course, they have tested a principle involving the interests of the whole Southern Church, specially our border work; therefore,

*Resolved*, That this General Conference earnestly and affectionately request the delegates from the Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, Memphis, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia Conferences, to take measures to collect in each of their respective Conferences, *one hundred dollars*, for the relief of the Church at Maysville.

*Resolved*, That the funds so collected be forwarded to ——— for the benefit of said Church, and should there be a surplus after defraying the expenses of the law-suit, such surplus shall be paid over to the Treasurer of the Missionary Society of the M. E. Church, South.

Respectfully submitted.

J. B. McFERRIN, *Chairman*.

*Petersburg, Va., May 9, 1846.*

On motion, the blank was filled up with the name of J. B. McFerrin.

Petitions and Memorials being called for, J. F. Truslow presented an appeal in behalf of the Society of Batesville, Arkansas Conference, for pecuniary aid, and a collection for the object was forthwith taken up in the Conference, amounting to \$195.

On motion of L. M. Lee, it was resolved that provided the memorial from Richmond in reference to the Book Concern cannot be ready to be presented to the Conference this morning, the delegation from Virginia may present it to the Committee this afternoon.

The Committee on Itinerancy presented a further report, as follows:—

The Committee on Itinerancy beg leave to further report, that the resolutions instructing the committee to inquire whether any evil has arisen or is likely to arise from cutting up our work into small circuits, or from the creation of small stations,

not able to support a preacher with a family, and if so, to recommend what in their judgment may be the best method of remedying the evil, have been examined, and the committee have concluded that the evils alluded to do not exist to any considerable extent; nevertheless, they think it important to our itinerant economy that the superintendents should vigilantly guard against any tendency to these evils in the Annual Conferences.

On the second resolution, instructing them to prepare and report a set of questions to be used by the Bishops in the annual examination of character, to be propounded to each preacher engaged in the regular work—report that they respectfully decline to propose any questions on the points suggested, believing that all necessary inquiries are provided for.

The committee recommend the General Conference to speak out strongly in the Pastoral Address, the preparation of which has been ordered, against the multiplication of pewed churches among our people, and that the Committee on the Pastoral Address be instructed accordingly.

G. F. PIERCE, *Chairman*.

The first part of the report was adopted—the latter part, referring to pewed churches, was laid over until Monday next.

Bishop Andrew now took the chair.

The following resolution was then adopted:

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Sabbath Schools be, and they are hereby, instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing as early as practicable, a periodical suited to Sabbath Schools within our bounds; and also,

To provide for a Sunday School Union in connection with the M. E. Church, South.

J. H. LINN,

A. MONROE.

The report of the Committee on Missions—on item six—in relation to a General Missionary Agent, was taken up. S. S. Bryant moved to strike out that part referring to a General Missionary Agent, and that the remainder of the report be conformed accordingly. Carried.

Whitefoord Smith moved that we proceed immediately to the election of the Missionary Secretary. This motion was lost.

Dr. Hamilton resigned his place on the Committee on Finance, and Dr. Boring was appointed in his stead.

On motion of B. T. Crouch, the report of the Committee on Episcopacy, which had been laid on the table on yesterday, was taken up. That part of the report in relation to the expenses of the Bishops, was laid on the table for the present. On motion of Dr. Boring, the first and second items were also laid on the table for the present. In the third item, the words "assume and," were stricken out, and the item was then adopted.

On motion of John Early, it was resolved that \$125:00 per annum be appropriated for the travelling expenses of each of the Bishops; that they keep an account of their travelling expenses, and report the same quadrennially to the General Conference.

The following resolution was then offered, and, on motion of Dr. Paine, referred to the Committee on Itinerancy:

Whereas, it is highly important to preserve pure and untrammelled our itinerant system in all its departments, therefore,

*Resolved*, That we recommend our Superintendents in no case to appoint more than one President or Professor from among our regular travelling preachers, to any one of our Universities or Seminaries, unless they find it *absolutely necessary* for the good of said institutions of learning.

J. B. McFERRIN,

G. F. PIERCE.

The report of the Committee on Missions relating to a Mission to China was taken up and adopted, as follows:—

### REPORT No. 3.

The Committee on Missions respectfully report:

That they have duly considered the subject of the expediency and importance of instituting a Mission to China, and are unanimously of opinion that such a Mission ought to be set on foot without delay.

Your committee have formed this opinion, not only because half of the Pagan world belongs to the Celestial Empire, and the Emperor has recently, in the providence of God, opened a great and effectual door to Missionary operations, and other churches, Papal and Protestant, are entering into it; but also, because many respectable portions of our own church have been, for some time past, calling earnestly for a Mission to

China. Considerable sums of money have already been contributed for this express purpose, and the Board of Managers of our Missionary Society have recommended the same.

Moreover, your committee have been informed, from sources to be relied on, that two excellent men, of rare qualifications for the work, can be immediately obtained for this service. And they therefore recommend that you adopt the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That under a full persuasion of our being providentially called thereto, we, the General Conference of the M. E. Church, South, do solicit our Bishops to take measures, in connection with our Board of Managers, for the appointment of two Missionaries to China at the earliest day in their convenience.

Respectfully submitted.

W. CAPERS, *Chairman Miss. Committee.*

The report of the Mission Committee in relation to a Missionary to the Jews was taken up, and then laid on the table for the present.

The report of the Committee on Missions, (No. 2,) in relation to the publication of a Catechism for the children on our Missions, was taken up and adopted.

On motion of A. Monroe, the election of the Missionary Secretary was made the order of the day for Tuesday next.

It was on motion resolved, that hereafter we meet at 8½ o'clock, A. M.

On motion of B. M. Drake, it was resolved, that the Committee on the Revision and Publication of our Hymn Book be not required to report to this Conference, but that they be authorized to proceed, as soon as may be, to prepare and have it published.

The President announced the Committee on Sabbath Schools, viz:—Bros. Linn, Brush, Rogers, Evans, and Bryant. Also the following additional members to the Committee on the Pastoral Address, viz:—Bros. Sehon and Richardson.

On motion of L. M. Lee, the Secretaries were directed to purchase a suitable Trunk for the Journals and Documents of the General Conference.

The Conference then adjourned, with the benediction by the Bishop.

*Monday Morning, May 11.*

Conference met, 8½ o'clock, and after divine service, conducted by J. Stamper, proceeded to business. Bishop Andrew in the chair.

The Journals were read and adopted.

Dr. Capers from the Committee on Missions presented their fifth report, which was adopted as follows: —

## REPORT No. 5.

The Committee on Missions respectfully report, that it appears to be necessary for this General Conference to authorize the payment of some money from the Missionary funds, forthwith, for the relief of the most needy of the preachers of the Texas Conferences, no appropriations having been made at the last sessions of these Conferences.

Your committee therefore recommend that you adopt the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the Missionary Board, be requested, and *are hereby* requested, to appropriate one thousand dollars to each of the Conferences in Texas, for the present relief of the preachers of said Conferences, and forward the same as early as practicable.

The Committee on Boundaries presented their report through H. H. Kavanaugh, their chairman. The report was read, and H. G. Leigh moved the following amendment:

*Resolved*, That so much of the State of North Carolina as is now included in the Lincoln, Cheraw, and Wilmington Districts of the South Carolina Conference be added to the North Carolina Conference, except the counties of Burke, Rutherford, and Lincoln—running the line from the south-western corner of Iredell county down the Catawba River to the State line, and thence along the State line to the Atlantic.

A motion to lay the amendment on the table indefinitely, was lost. The amendment was then withdrawn, and the report was acted on, item by item.

The first, second, and third items were adopted. On motion of E. Stevenson, the fourth item was laid on the table for the present. The fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, and

eleventh items were adopted. B. M. Drake moved to amend the twelfth item by striking out the words "*Alabama Conference*." The motion to amend was lost, and the twelfth item was then adopted.

The thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth items were then adopted.

The seventeenth item being under consideration, H. G. Leigh renewed the motion to amend it, which he had previously withdrawn—the motion to amend was lost, and the seventeenth item was then adopted.

The eighteenth item was adopted.

The nineteenth item, on motion of L. M. Lee, was recommitted.

Bishop Soule now took the chair.

Thomas N. Ralston presented the report of the Committee on Revisal, which, after being read, was laid on the table for the present, and made the order of the day for Wednesday next.

On motion of W. M. Wightman, the report of the Committee appointed by the Louisville Convention, on the subject of conforming the Discipline to the Southern Organization, was taken up, and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

L. M. Lee presented a memorial from Richmond, praying for the location of the Book Concern in that city, which was read, and referred to the Committee on Finance. Also a memorial from Westmoreland Circuit, Baltimore Conference, praying to be attached to the Southern Organization, which was read and referred to the Committee on the Episcopacy.

Fountain E. Pitts moved to reconsider the vote by which Conference had ordered a change in that part of the Discipline, requiring, that "after a Presiding Elder has been continued in the same District for four years successively, he shall not be again returned to it for six years."

The motion to reconsider prevailed, and then Conference adjourned.

### *Tuesday Morning, May 12.*

Conference met at 8½ o'clock. After religious services by B. M. Drake, Conference proceeded to business. Bishop Soule in the chair. The Journals were read and approved.

Dr. Bascom, from the Committee on Literary Institutions, presented the following report :

The Committee on Literary Institutions ask leave to submit their First Report.

*Whereas*, The Trustees of Transylvania University, at Lexington, Ky., have made to this General Conference a tender of the control of the Academical Division of that Institution, upon the same terms and conditions upon which it was formerly offered to the General Conference of the M. E. Church, and accepted by Commissioners of that body, but which negotiation, in view of the separate ecclesiastical connection in the slaveholding States, authorized by an organic law of the General Conference of said Church, in 1844, was not consummated :

*And whereas*, We regard the tender in question as fair and generous in its object, as well as safe and advantageous in its terms, and, withal, well calculated, if accepted, to advance the best interests of the M. E. Church, South, so far as connected with the subject of education : Therefore,

*Resolved*, By the Delegates of all the Annual Conferences of the M. E. Church, South, in General Conference assembled, *That we accept* the offer of the control and management of the Academic Division of Transylvania University, made by the Trustees of that Institution to this General Conference, upon the terms and conditions proposed ; and that H. B. Bascom and H. H. Kavanaugh be commissioners, in behalf of the M. E. Church, South, invested, both acting together, or either by himself, with full powers, in every respect, to complete the negotiation, and close the contract, with the Trustees of the University.

2. *Resolved*, That B. T. Crouch, H. H. Kavanaugh, R. Letcher, J. Swigert, George W. Hite, M. V. Thompson, Thomas M. Taylor, D. Thornton, and Thos. B. Stevenson, be the Board of Curators provided for in the contract between the Trustees of Transylvania University and this General Conference.

3. *Resolved*, That this General Conference, *now and hereby*, nominate for confirmation by the Board of Trustees, as President of the University, and Morrison Professor of Intellectual and Moral Philosophy.

4. *Resolved*, That the nomination of the entire Faculty, ex-



cept the President, unless made by this General Conference before its adjournment, be confided to the Board of Curators appointed by this Conference.

Respectfully submitted.

H. B. BASCOM,  
*Chairman of Com.*

*Petersburg, Va., May 12, 1846.*

This Report was unanimously adopted.

John Early moved that the blank in the report be filled with the name of H. B. Bascom, D. D.—This motion was carried by a rising and unanimous vote.

The Committee on Missions presented their sixth report, as follows :

#### REPORT, No. 6.

The Committee on Missions respectfully report, That, while they would carefully avoid any unfriendly collision or interference with our brethren of the Northern Church, in any quarter, and most of all in the field of Missions, and could never entertain a thought of interfering with them in their work in Liberia, yet, considering how wide a field might be reached from that point beyond the sphere of their present operations, and that there may be other points on the Western Coast of Africa which are open to us, and from which Missionary operations might be commenced to advantage in Africa, your Committee are of opinion, that you ought not to conclude the present session of your Conference without giving some positive expression of your mind with respect to the share which ought to be taken by the M. E. Church, South, in the great work of spreading the knowledge of salvation among the tribes of Africa.

Your Committee do therefore recommend the following Resolution for your adoption :

*Resolved*, That we recommend to the Bishop and the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, that as soon as any providential opening shall appear for the institution of a Mission to Africa, they do improve the same, by sending a Missionary or Missionaries thither.

Respectfully submitted.

W. CAPERS,  
*Chairman Miss. Com.*

*Petersburg, Va., May 12, 1846.*

This Report was adopted.

On motion of E. Stevenson, that part of the Report of the Committee on Boundaries, in relation to the Kentucky Conference, was now taken up.

J. Early moved to amend by striking out all that relates to "Societies which may adhere North or South." An amendment to the amendment offered by T. Crowder, was withdrawn.

J. B. McFerrin moved to amend the amendment so as to make the clause read thus: "Together with those parts of the State of Ohio, and all that part of Western Virginia, in the Kanawha District, that have adhered, or may adhere, South, according to the Plan of Separation."

Dr. Longstreet moved to lay the Resolution, and that part of the Report, on the table for the present.—Withdrawn.

B. M. Drake moved to lay the motion to amend on the table.—Lost.

Dr. Capers moved that the motion to amend, together with that portion of the Report relating to the Northern boundaries of Kentucky Conference, be referred to the Committee on Boundaries.—Carried.

A motion, by B. T. Crouch, to adopt the remainder of the Report, was withdrawn.

Dr. G. F. Pierce moved to lay that part of the Report on the table.—Carried.

E. Stevenson moved that leave be granted to the Kentucky Conference to divide in the interval of the General Conference, with the consent of the Superintendents.

N. B. Lewis moved to lay this resolution on the table.—Carried.

On motion of Dr. Longstreet, the vote by which the subject was laid on the table, was reconsidered.

B. M. Drake moved to amend that part of the Report so as to make it read as follows: "Commencing at the mouth of Harrod's creek, and running so as to intersect the Turnpike from Louisville to Bardstown, including the Middletown and Jeffersontown circuits in the Southern division."—This amendment prevailed.

E. Stevenson moved to amend as follows: "That the line run due South from Liberty to the Cumberland river; thence up said river to the fork; thence up the South fork to the Tennessee line." This amendment prevailed, and that part of the Report was adopted.

Bishop Soule, in consequence of infirmity of body, and weight of business, requested to be excused from preaching a sermon on Thursday next, in connection with the ordination service.

On motion of J. Early, his request was granted.

The Conference then resolved to go into the election of the Missionary Secretary.

On the second balloting, E. W. Sehon was duly elected to that office.

Dr. Capers presented the Seventh Report of the Committee on Missions. It was read, and laid on the table for the present, and then Conference adjourned, with the benediction by the Bishop.

### *Wednesday Morning, May 13.*

Conference met, Bishop Andrew in the chair. Religious services were conducted by S. Anthony. The Journals were read and approved.

The Eighth Report of the Mission Committee was then presented and adopted, as follows:—

#### REPORT, No. 8.

The Committee on Missions respectfully report a revised copy of the Constitution of the Missionary Society of the M. E. Church, South, exhibiting the form of said Constitution as conformed to the action of this General Conference, and which they recommend to the Conference for adoption, as follows:

#### CONSTITUTION.

*Article I.* This Association, denominated “THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH,” is established for the purpose of affording to the several Annual Conferences of said Church, the facilities of a common organization, under the control of the General Conference, for carrying on their missionary labours at home and in foreign countries.

*Article II.* The payment of two dollars annually, shall constitute a member of the Society; and the payment of twenty dollars at one time, a member for life.

*Article III.* The officers of this Society shall consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and two

Assistant-Treasurers, of whom one shall reside in Charleston, South Carolina, and one at New Orleans, Louisiana. Which officers, together with sixteen Managers, shall form a Board for the transaction of business. They shall all be members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and be annually elected by the Society, except the Secretary, who shall be elected by the General Conference. The Society shall elect four Vice-Presidents, and each Annual Conference shall have the privilege of electing one Vice-President from its own body.

*Article IV.* The Board shall have authority to make By-Laws for regulating its own proceedings; to appropriate money to defray incidental expenses; to provide for the support of superannuated missionaries, and widows, and orphans of missionaries who may not be provided for by any Annual Conference; it being understood that they shall not receive more than is allowed by the Discipline to other superannuated ministers, widows, and orphans; and to print books for the use of the Indian, German, Domestic, or Foreign missions; to fill vacancies which may occur during the year; and shall present a statement of its transactions and funds to the Society, at each of its annual meetings; and shall also lay before the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, a report of all its transactions, and a statement of its funds up to some convenient day near, and prior to, the time of holding the General Conference. The Board shall also cause the annual statements and reports to be published in all the newspapers published by the M. E. Church, South.

*Article V.* The annual meeting for the election of officers and Managers shall be held in Louisville, Ky., on the third Monday in April.

*Article VI.* At all meetings of the Society, the President, or, in his absence, one of the Vice-Presidents, or, in their absence, a member appointed by the meeting, shall preside.

*Article VII.* Twenty members at all meetings of the Society, and nine at all meetings of the Board of Managers, shall be a quorum.

*Article VIII.* The Minutes of each meeting shall be signed by the presiding officer.

*Article IX.* It is recommended that each of the Annual Conferences establish a Conference Missionary Society, auxiliary to

this institution, under such regulations as they shall severally adopt, or the General Conference order. Each Conference Society shall annually transmit to the Secretary of this Society, at Louisville, Ky., a copy of its Annual Report, embracing the operations within its bounds; and shall also notify the Treasurer of the amount of funds available for the missionary cause, which amount shall be subject to the order of the Treasurer of this Society.

*Article X.* The Bishops, in conjunction with the Board of Managers, shall determine what fields shall be occupied or continued for foreign missions, and the number of persons to be employed in each, and shall estimate the sums necessary for the support of each mission. And the Bishops, in conjunction with the Board of Managers, shall fix the amount which may be drawn for during the year, and the division of said amount between the foreign and domestic missions; and they shall also determine the amount for which each of the Bishops shall draw for the domestic missions of those Conferences over which he may preside, and beyond which he shall not be at liberty to draw.

*Article XI.* The sums allowed for the support of missionaries shall not exceed the usual allowance of other itinerant ministers. The Bishop or President of the Conference, if the mission be domestic, and the Superintendent, where there is one, and if not, the Missionary, if the mission be foreign, shall draw on the Treasurer for the allowance, in quarterly or half-yearly instalments. And they shall always promptly notify the Treasurer of all drafts made by them, and shall require quarterly communications to be made by each of the missionaries, or from each mission, to the Secretary, at Louisville, Ky., giving information of the state and prospects of the missions in which they are severally employed. No one shall be acknowledged as a missionary, or shall receive support from the funds of the Society, who has not some definite field of labour assigned him, or who could not be an effective labourer on a circuit, except as provided for in Art. IV.

*Article XII.* In all cases of the appointment of a missionary, the name of such missionary, and the district in which he is to labour, together with the probable expenses of his mission, shall be communicated to the Treasurer of this Society, that a proper record of the same may be preserved.

*Article XIII.* This constitution shall not be altered or amended but by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, on the recommendation of the Board of Managers on the recommendation of the General Conference.

Respectfully submitted.

W. CAPERS, *Chairman.*

*Petersburg, Va., May 13, 1846.*

Wm. M. Wightman presented the third Report of the Committee on Episcopacy.

J. B. McFerrin moved its adoption.

On motion of A. Martin, an amendment of B. M. Drake was laid on the table.

B. M. Drake moved to strike out the word "*unscrupulous.*" This motion was lost.

B. M. Drake and Dr. Bascom proposed certain amendments, which were admitted by the Committee.

S. S. Bryant moved to strike out the word "*fixed.*"—This motion was withdrawn, and the Report was adopted as follows:

The Committee on Episcopacy having been instructed to the following effect by the General Conference, viz: "*Resolved*, That the Committee on Episcopacy be instructed to institute special inquiry into the character and grounds of the charge so repeatedly preferred by the Editors and Correspondents of the Western Christian Advocate, and the Christian Advocate and Journal, against Bishops Soule and Andrew, to the effect that they have, in numerous instances, not only constructively infringed, but grossly violated, both the spirit and letter of the General Conference Plan of Separation, in appointing ministers to border charges, stations, or societies, where the people, or members of the Church, had not adhered South, by a vote of the majority, as directed by the General Conference, and that said committee report the result of such inquiry to this Conference during its present session," beg leave respectfully to report:

That they have had the subject under careful advisement, and sought the most ample and trustworthy sources of information within their reach, and find, that neither in the St. Louis, nor St. Charles District of the Missouri Conference, lying on the Illinois border, nor in the case of the Soule Chapel Society in Cincinnati, nor in the Maysville District of the Kentucky Con-

ference, nor in the various instances of adherence South, that have taken place in the Kanawha District of the Ohio Conference; nor in the instance of the Eastville Circuit, lying on the border, and formerly embraced in the Philadelphia Conference, any violation has been made of the provisions of the Plan of Separation, on the part of the Episcopal administration.

On the contrary, documentary evidence, in abundance, and perfectly satisfactory in its nature, has been furnished the committee, that the administration of the Southern Bishops has been strictly conformed to the rule laid down in the Plan, as the basis of operations in determining the ultimate Northern boundaries of the M. E. Church, South. The whole law of the General Conference of 1844, on this subject, is in the following words: "All the societies, stations, and conferences adhering to the Church in the South, by a vote of the majority of the members of said societies, stations, and conferences, shall remain under the unmolested pastoral care of the Southern Church; and the ministers of the M. E. Church shall in no wise attempt to organize churches or societies within the limits of the Church, South; nor shall they attempt to exercise any pastoral oversight therein; it being understood that the ministry of the South, *reciprocally*, observe the same rule in relation to societies, stations, and Conferences, adhering, by a vote of the majority, to the M. E. Church; provided that the rule shall apply only to societies, stations, and conferences *bordering on the line of division*, and not to interior charges, which shall, in all cases, be left to the care of that Church within whose territory they are situated."

The construction put upon the provisions of this rule by the bishops of the M. E. Church, South, and by those of the M. E. Church also, for any thing that appears to the contrary to your Committee, is, that it gives a plain permissive *grant* of occupancy to the Southern Church along the borders northwardly, until the dividing line is satisfactorily settled and determined, by the formal adherence, North, of a definite line of societies and stations.

This ascertained, then the societies and stations lying beyond that line become interior charges, which are to be left undisturbed by the Southern ministry. But the line of division never becomes fixed until such an act of formal adherence, North,

takes place. That act alone is made, by the aforesaid rule, the condition of protection against the advance of the Southern boundary, and *vice versa*. Such a construction of the law alone secures to border societies the rights and privileges allowed by the Plan of Separation, and provides, at the same time, for the peace and security of the border region. This construction, your committee believe to be entirely correct, and expressive of the original intention of the General Conference of 1844, in the provisions of the plan.

A question has been raised whether the decisions of a border Annual Conference to adhere to the M. E. Church, does not necessarily carry with it all the societies and stations on the Southern border. To affirm this, however, would be to deny to those societies and stations the precise rights of choice and adherence guaranteed to them by the very terms of the Plan of Separation. The rule embraces stations, societies, *and* conferences. To the former, in broad distinction from the latter, it grants the privilege of choosing, independently of the position of the Annual Conference, to which of the two churches they prefer to adhere. The very *terms* of the plan, as well as its principles and the *animus imponentis*, settle this question, and concede to all border charges, irrespective of Conference action, the right to elect for themselves, by resolution of the majority, the ecclesiastical position which they prefer; and so far from its being true, that the Annual Conferences hold the right of determining *primarily* in this matter, the very reverse is the fact. It is connection with the *border*, and not with the Annual Conference, which is the material thing. Conferences, as such, may make their adherence North or South; but so may societies and stations on the boundary line, with the freedom of election perfectly untrammelled by what the Annual Conference has done, and with a right, so far as the provisional grant of the plan is concerned, as distinct and primary, as that of the Conference, since no distinction in favour of one or the other is made in the grant.

The disciplinary boundary line of a border Conference, adhering North or South, prior to the action of the societies, brings those societies lying on the line into the Northern or Southern Church, as the case may be, and renders it unnecessary for the societies here referred to, to take formal action, if they agree in sentiment with the Annual Conference. If, however, they do



not thus agree, the Conferential action does not bind them. They may take action as societies, or as charges; that is, circuits; and adhering to the other church, they transfer the boundary line to the next tier of societies adjoining, who thus become a line of border societies, who may, by a similar action, transmit the border relation, and the accompanying provisional rights and privileges to those immediately beyond them. Thus the line is moveable, northwardly or southwardly, until a line of societies or circuits is found who coincide in their affinities and election with those of the Annual Conference, and thus it becomes fixed. Then all beyond is considered the field of "interior charges," which, by the terms of the Plan, are, in all cases, to be left to the care of that church within whose territory they are situated.

The *right* of border *circuits* to the benefits of the provisional arrangements of the Plan, has also been denied. This has been urged chiefly on the ground that, in the Plan, the term *circuits* is not used. The construction in question maintains, that those societies alone of a border circuit, lying adjoining the dividing line, are invested with the right of choice, and violently considers the remainder of the societies on the circuit *interior charges*!—which, by this summary interpretation, are cut off from all participation in the privilege of electing for themselves the church to which they will adhere. But the answer to this is obvious. The Methodist Book of Discipline, and the law of Methodist usage, nowhere consider a single society on a circuit *a charge*. The entire circuit, composed of many or few societies, as the case may be, is a single charge, under the pastoral oversight of a preacher, stationed by the authorized officer at the Annual Conference. No one society, except it be a station, is a pastoral charge, to the exclusion of the rest comprehended in the circuit. Interior *charges* are circuits, or stations, distinct in supervision, and lying back of the frontier or border line, and barred from the provisions of the Plan only by the adverse action of the intermediate circuit or station.

The Episcopal administration in the M. E. Church, South, has conformed rigorously to these obvious principles, and been shaped by these rules of procedure, which the Church and South is willing and ready to have applied in the case of societies, sta-

tions, or circuits, embraced in the Southern jurisdiction, but which desire to adhere North.

A formal notice was published by Bishop Soule, instructing all the societies bordering on the line of division, to have due notice given of the time, place, and object of meeting in regard to their adherence North or South, at which a Chairman and Secretary should be appointed, and the sense of all the members present might be ascertained, and the same forwarded to the Bishop presiding at the ensuing Annual Conferences; or otherwise to forward to said presiding Bishop, a written request to be recognized, and have a preacher sent them with the names of the majority appended thereto. By adopting these measures, due provision was made for the ascertainment of the position of border societies and circuits before the sessions of the border conferences; and to meet the necessities of societies adhering since, Presiding Elders of the border districts were instructed by the Bishops to embrace them in their districts, and furnish a supply to the best of their ability, until the ensuing sessions of the conferences. This has been done with a strict adherence to the principles heretofore referred to.

The committee do not consider it necessary to enter into any minute detail of particular cases, satisfied as they are, from the best evidence, that the Episcopal administration has united a praiseworthy caution with a firm maintenance of principle. As, however, much capital has been attempted to be made out of the case of the Soule Chapel in Cincinnati, the committee beg to be indulged with a particular statement of the facts. This Society was formed under the pastoral care of the Rev. G. W. Maley, who was appointed by the last Ohio Annual Conference of the M. E. Church a Missionary for the city of Cincinnati. He was to labour generally within the bounds of the city, and acted under the advisement of the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society in Cincinnati. This Society unanimously chose as one of the places of his labour, the Vine-street church, and advised him there to commence his work. He accordingly did so. A number of the most reputable and pious members of the M. E. Church, in Cincinnati, took their certificates of membership from their different charges, and attached themselves to the City Mission, at Vine street. Leaders and Stewards were regularly appointed; the congregation continued to worship together as a

society in the M. E. Church, and under the pastoral care of a duly authorized and appointed minister of the Conference aforesaid. They thus worshipped until their number amounted to ninety-eight members, male and female, when, after due notice had been given from the pulpit in the public congregation, the whole society came together; and having been duly organized by the election of a chairman and secretary from their own body, a resolution of adherence to the M. E. Church, South, was unanimously adopted, ninety-eight voting in the affirmative. The Rev. E. W. Sehon, who had previously adhered South, was invited to take charge of the congregation, until they were duly received and provided for. The Rev. G. W. Maley, formerly City Missionary, gave in his adherence to the South soon after, and upon the presentation of the facts in the case, duly attested, Bishop Andrew appointed to the pastoral oversight of the charge, the Rev. Messrs. Sehon and Maley.

The committee cannot dismiss the subject without a word of reference to the singular course pursued by the official organs of the M. E. Church. The papers at New York and Cincinnati, it is well known, have attacked the provisions of the Plan of Separation with an emphatic and unscrupulous hostility. With an unflinching purpose, worthy of a better cause, they have denounced it as unconstitutional; contemned the authority which enacted it; advised resistance to it; pledged character, influence, and religion for its overthrow; encouraged faction in the interior of the Southern jurisdiction; and by every possible mode of address, sought to embarrass and distract the minds of well-meaning persons, not only along the border, but in interior charges of the Southern Church. The terms schismatics, disorganizers, and seceders, have become stereotyped phrases of reproach, to the detriment not only of the spirit and unity of good brotherhood between the two great divisions of the Methodist Episcopal family, but also of the character of the General Conference, which, by so great a majority of votes, adopted the Plan; and especially of the equitable claims of the South to their just portion of the common property of the Church. Open resistance to the Plan was declared by the Ohio and Illinois Conferences, which, though border conferences, did not adhere, by formal vote, to the M. E. Church, as the Plan aforesaid required, and, by this failure, deliberately placed themselves be-

yond the protection of its provisions. In at least two instances, Presiding Elders, belonging to those conferences, have invaded the Southern border, and sent preachers to dissatisfied minorities of societies which had adhered South by vote of the majority. And thus the wise and pacific policy of the General Conference of 1844, has been impugned, and its purposes thwarted. And, finally, to cover these revolutionary procedures, a hue and cry has been all the while kept up against the Episcopal administration of the South. To say that we are utterly surprised, and deeply mortified at the course which things have taken in reference to this subject, is but feebly to express the emotions produced by a view of the facts in the premises. In conclusion, the committee recommend for adoption, by the General Conference of the M. E. Church, South, now in session assembled, the following Resolution

*Resolved*, That after a full and patient examination of the particulars of the Episcopal administration of the Southern Church in relation to the Plan of Separation, this General Conference considers the charges so repeatedly made by the Editors and Correspondents of the Western Christian Advocate, and the Christian Advocate and Journal, against Bishops Soule and Andrew, as entirely groundless; and that, on the contrary, the administration aforesaid has been strictly conformed to the rule set forth by authority of the General Conference of the M. E. Church, in its legislation on this subject, in 1844.

In behalf of the committee.

WILLIAM M. WIGHTMAN.

*Petersburg, Va., May 13, 1846.*

The following Report of the Committee on Episcopacy was then presented and adopted:

#### REPORT No. 4.

The Committee on Episcopacy, to whom the documents of the Westmoreland Circuit of the Baltimore Annual Conference were referred, ask leave to report: That, on examining those papers, they find the whole proceedings in the premises to accord, in their judgment, perfectly, with the spirit and letter of "the Plan of Separation," adopted by the General Conference of 1844; and cannot withhold an expression of their high gratification with respect to the firmness of the memorialists on the

one hand, and the exercise of their meekness and submission on the other. Your committee, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following Resolutions, to wit :

1. That the Bishops of the M. E. Church, South, be, and they are hereby requested, at the next ensuing session of the Virginia Annual Conference, to take the said Westmoreland Circuit as a part of the territory and care of the said Virginia Annual Conference, and appoint preachers to it, to occupy and cultivate it, so soon as the year shall expire, agreed upon between the circuit and the ministers of the Baltimore Annual Conference now labouring on it.

2. That the Secretary of this General Conference transmit a true copy of this Report to the memorialists of the Westmoreland circuit.

Respectfully submitted.  
13th May.

THOMAS CROWDER,  
*Chairman pro tem.*

Leroy M. Lee was allowed the use of the communication from Westmoreland Circuit, with the understanding that he return the same to the Conference.

Dr. W. A. Smith, from the Committee on Finance, presented their Third Report, which was read, and a motion to lay it on the table for the present was withdrawn.

The Report is as follows :—

The Finance Committee submit their Third Report, *viz.* :

We recommend that each paragraph of the eighth section of Discipline, page 191, be stricken out, and the following be inserted, *viz.* :

1. There shall be a Book Concern, consisting of two divisions ; one established in the city of Louisville and state of Kentucky, and one in the city of Richmond and state of Virginia.

2. There shall be an agent for each division of the Concern, chosen by the General Conference from among the travelling preachers, and who shall be a member of such Annual Conference or Conferences as they may severally choose, with the approbation of the presiding Bishop.

3. The agent of each division shall have authority to regulate the publications and all other parts of the business of the establishment with which they are separately connected, (except what belongs to the editorial department,) as the state of the

finances will admit, and the demands may require. It shall be their further duty to send an exhibit of the state of the business to each session of the Annual Conferences, and report quadrennially to the General Conference. They shall also inform the conferences of any within their respective bounds who neglect to make payment, that measures may be taken to collect or secure such debts. They shall not allow any claim to run beyond one year from the time it was due, without reporting it to the conference. They shall publish such books and tracts as are recommended by the General Conference, and may, if approved by the editors and one or more of the superintendents, publish such as are recommended by the Book Committee, as hereafter provided for, and reprint any book that may have been published.

4. There shall be a Book Committee in connection with each establishment of the Book Concern, constituted by six travelling ministers and the editors. The travelling ministers shall be appointed as follows: The Kentucky Conference shall annually appoint *three*, and the South Kentucky Conference shall annually appoint *three*, who, in connection with the editors of the books and periodicals of the Louisville division, shall be the Book Committee of that establishment. And for the division in Richmond, the Virginia Conference shall annually appoint *three*, and the North Carolina Conference shall annually appoint *three*, who, in connection with the editors, shall constitute the Book Committee of that establishment. It shall be the duty of the Book Committees to examine into the fiscal condition of the establishments with which they are separately connected, and make a report thereof, yearly, to the two Annual Conferences named above, and a quadrennial report to the General Conference. They shall also attend to such matters as may be referred to them by the editors or agents for their action or counsel; and they shall have power to suspend an editor or agent to some definite time and place, where and when one or more of the bishops shall be requested to attend, and, by the concurrence of the bishop or bishops present, and of a majority of the committee, he may be removed from office, in the interval of the General Conference. And in case a vacancy occurs in any of the agencies, or in any of the editorial departments authorized by the General Conference, it shall be the duty of

the Book Committee and one or more of the General Superintendents, as soon as practicable, to provide for such vacancy until the next ensuing General Conference.

5. There shall be a weekly periodical in Louisville, Kentucky, in connection with the Book establishment of that city, and one in Richmond, Virginia, in connection with the Book establishment of that city. There shall also be a Sabbath-school Journal established in the interval of the General Conference in connection with the Louisville establishment, provided the Book Committee, together with the editors and agents, shall deem such Journal necessary.

6. For each establishment there shall be an editor of the periodicals and an editor of the books, appointed by the General Conference.

7. There shall be a Quarterly Review published in the city of Louisville, in connection with the Book establishment, and for which the General Conference shall appoint an editor.

8. The Book Agents shall not be required, during the ensuing four years, to divide any proceeds of the Book Concern among the Annual Conferences; but all the funds accruing shall be appropriated to the building up and sustaining of their respective establishments.

The committee further recommend the adoption of the following Resolution, *viz.*:

*Resolved*, That the preachers having charge of circuits and stations within the bounds of the Methodist E. Church, South, shall be, and they are hereby required, during the month of July next, to cause collections and subscriptions to be taken up in all their congregations for the purpose of building up the Southern Book Concern, giving each donor the privilege of designating the division of the Concern to which he may wish his subscription to be applied; and report to one of the principal agents the amount of their subscriptions as early as the first of September next.

W. A. SMITH.

A motion was made to amend by striking out Louisville, and inserting Cincinnati.—Withdrawn.

Conference determined to proceed to fix the location of the Eastern Division of the Book Concern.

On motion of B. M. Drake, a memorial, praying for the loca-

tion of the Book Concern in Petersburg, Va., was read. A similar paper from Covington, Ky., was presented by Bishop Andrew, and read to the Conference.

Bishop Soule now took the Chair.

The question on the location of the Eastern Division of the Book Concern, now lying before the Conference, New York, Richmond, Charleston, Athens, and Petersburg were placed in nomination. While this subject was under discussion, Dr. Smith, having occupied the time allowed him by the rules, was, on motion, permitted to conclude his speech. A motion to suspend, during this discussion, the rule limiting the speaker to fifteen minutes, was lost. Dr. Longstreet offered the following Resolution, which, on motion of F. E. Pitts, was laid on the table :

*Resolved*, That the first blanks in the Report of the Committee on Finance, be filled by ballot.

W. W. Redman moved to reconsider the vote by which we determined to have two divisions of the Book Concern.

T. Crowder moved, that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at four o'clock this afternoon.—This motion was lost.

L. M. Lee was recognized as being entitled to the floor, and Conference adjourned, with the benediction by the Bishop.

#### *Thursday Morning, May 14.*

Conference met, Bishop Soule in the Chair. Andrew Monroe conducted the customary devotions.

The Journals were read and approved.

H. H. Kavanaugh presented the Report of the Committee on Boundaries.

J. Stamper moved to amend by embracing the town of Springfield in the South Kentucky Conference.—This motion prevailed.

On motion of C. B. Parsons, the name of the lower Conference was changed from *South Kentucky* to *Louisville*.

The Fourth section of the Report was then adopted.

The Fifth section was also adopted.

On motion of S. S. Bryant, the Conference resolved to reconsider the vote by which the Boundaries between the North and South Carolina Conferences were determined.



On motion of S. S. Bryant, that part of the Report was laid on the table for the present.

Thos. Crowder, from the Committee on Episcopacy, presented their Fifth Report, which was read, and laid on the table for the present.

Samuel Anthony, from the Committee on the Expenses of Delegates, presented their Report, which was read, and W. P. Ratcliffe moved its recommitment. This motion was lost, and the Report was adopted as follows:—

The Committee on the Expenses of the Delegates beg leave to report, that they have received from the Delegations of the several Annual Conferences, the following accounts of expenses, and of moneys received, to wit:

<i>Conferences.</i>	<i>Expenses.</i>	<i>Receipts.</i>	<i>Deficiency.</i>	<i>Surplus.</i>
Kentucky,	\$631 00	\$432 31	\$198 69	
Holston,	256 35	227 14	29 21	
Missouri,	445 15	356 72	88 43	
Indian Mission,	110 22		110 22	
Tennessee,	820 78	552 35	268 43	
Memphis,	504 00	504 00		
Arkansas,	266 00	144 16	121 84	
East Texas,	110 00	5 00	105 00	
West Texas,	233 00	72 54	160 46	
Mississippi,	700 00	427 00	273 00	
Alabama,	765 55	422 35	343 20	
Georgia,	563 00	583 75		\$20 75
Florida,	160 25	116 00	44 25	
South Carolina,	287 25	468 45		181 20
North Carolina,	80 00	80 00		
Virginia,	60 00	321 13		261 13
	\$5992 55	\$4712 90	\$1742 73	\$463 08

Your committee would respectfully recommend that the sum of two hundred and eighteen dollars be paid to Bishop Soule for travelling expenses, and also the sum of sixty dollars to Bishop Andrew for the same purpose.

And of the balance, fifty dollars to the Delegation from East Texas, fifty to the Delegation from West Texas, and eighty-five dollars to the Delegation from Indian Mission Conference.

Your committee would recommend, secondly, that all the Delegations who are deficient, be instructed to look to their respective conferences for their deficiencies.

Respectfully submitted.

S. ANTHONY, *Chairman.*

F. E. Pitts presented the Report on Temperance. W. Brown-  
ing moved to amend the Report by striking out the words—  
“moral and religious character of a Methodist”—and inserting

the words—"teachings of the Scriptures, and the Discipline of the Church."—The amendment was adopted, and that part of the Report, to wit, the Resolution, was laid on the table as thus amended.

G. W. Brush moved the adoption of the original Resolution, as follows:—

*Resolved*, That, in the judgment of this General Conference, the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors, or their use as a beverage, is inconsistent with the moral and religious character of a Methodist.

The original Resolution was restored to the Report.

T. N. Ralston moved the adoption of the Report.

Dr. Green moved to lay the Report on the table.—Lost.

A motion to adjourn was lost.

On motion of W. W. Redman, the Report was adopted, except the Resolution.

H. B. Cowles having offered a substitute for the Resolution, it was adopted: a motion to lay it on the table having been lost.

The Report as amended and adopted, is as follows:

In presenting a Report to this Conference on the subject of Temperance, your committee are persuaded that no new features of this great moral reformation will be expected, much less an elaborate investigation of a subject, so copious for practical remark. We shall therefore content ourselves, in the absence of all instructions as to any specific consideration, with a brief reference to the claims of the Temperance cause, and of the weighty obligations devolving upon us, as a numerous body of Christians and Christian ministers, to promote, to our utmost ability, the best interests of that cause.

While it is a theme of sincere congratulation to record the immense good that has already been achieved in the promotion of Temperance by the efficient instrumentality already at work, both within and without the Church, thereby demonstrating what is still possible to be accomplished, yet the truth is most affecting and deplorable on the other hand, that the evils of intemperance, like a fell infection, pervading all gradations of society, in every variety of form, all over these lands, loudly call upon the friends of humanity and religion for help.

However painful, it is, nevertheless, our duty to contemplate

its march of ruin. Blighting the hopes of youth, and darkening the prospects of old age; enervating the strong, and destroying the weak; impoverishing the rich, and wrecking the humble fortunes of the poor; wasting the physical, and withering the intellectual and moral man by a slow and insidious process, but as direct and certain as destiny, until the very umpire of the soul is dethroned, and the mere mimicry of reason is left to play its fitful vibrations upon the wreck of a disorganized constitution.

Nor is this all: for the dishonoured body is forgotten in the grave of a pauper, and the soul is sent to the burning flame; for, "*drunkards shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*"

If, however, the withering curse of intemperance fell only upon the heads of its self-destroying victims, it might at least somewhat relieve the melancholy picture; but the destiny of helpless and unoffending thousands is alike involved. What scenes of hopeless penury everywhere afflict the heart of humanity! How many forlorn and miserable mothers, with their unprotected orphans, are annually sent adrift upon the world! Hearts of the purest virtue crushed with unmitigated sorrow, while domestic bliss and social happiness are expelled from the circles of home for ever. Nor is this the worst: the Gospel of mercy to our world encounters no opposition more formidable and invincible than it meets in the obstinate resistance of intemperance.

If, therefore, the magnitude or malignity of an evil is to form any rule or reason for united and vigorous action on the part of those whose great business it is to reform the world, and preserve, in scriptural purity, the Church of God, then, indeed, are we furnished with the most weighty consideration to enlist, as far as practicable, the entire influence of the Church in opposing a custom so ruinous in its results upon good morals, and so destructive in its encroachments on religious character.

From the high ground so early and long maintained by the Methodist Episcopal Church, in her Disciplinary prohibitions against drunkenness and the needless use of ardent spirits, it is doubtless expected by the lovers of a pure morality, that she continue to evince, by every possible method, and especially in the expressions of her Supreme Councils, a decided and irreconcilable opposition to intemperance; and that such unequivocal

cal avowals be consistently sustained in the teaching of her ministry, and in the uncompromising administration of her Discipline.—Therefore,

*Resolved*, That we recommend to the members of our Church, to unite their efforts in promoting the great Temperance Reformation now in successful operation.

Respectfully submitted.

F. E. PITTS,

*Chairman Com. on Temperance.*

*Petersburg, Va., May 14, 1846.*

After the adoption of this Report, the Conference adjourned, with the benediction by the Bishop, in order to attend the ordination of Dr. Capers and Dr. Paine, the Bishops elect, which took place in Washington-street Church.

### *Ordination of the Bishops.*

This interesting ceremony took place in the Washington-street Church, Petersburg, on Thursday, May 14, 1846, at 12 o'clock, M.

The services were commenced by Bishop Andrew, by singing the 463d Hymn :

“Saviour of men, thy searching eye,”—

and by extempore prayer.

Bishop Andrew also read that part of the Ordinal which precedes the presentation. The rest of the service was conducted by Bishop Soule.

The candidates were presented by the venerable Lovick Pierce, D. D., and John Early, both of whom assisted Bishops Soule and Andrew in the imposition of hands.

Thus were William Capers, D. D., of the South Carolina Conference, and Robert Paine, D. D., of the Tennessee Conference, solemnly set apart to the office and work of Superintendents in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

### *Friday Morning, May 15.*

Conference met, and opened with the usual religious services, conducted by C. B. Parsons.—Bishop Andrew in the chair.

The Journal being read and approved, Bishop Capers, on invitation of Bishop Andrew, now took the chair.

Samuel Patton presented some resolutions from the Holston Conference, in relation to pewed churches, which were read and referred to the Committee on the Pastoral Address.

Similar resolutions were presented from Memphis Conference, and referred to the same committee.

Thomas Crowder presented a communication from Norfolk, requesting the location of the Eastern Division of the Book Concern in that city, which was read and laid on the table.

Dr. L. Pierce presented resolutions from Lumpkin Circuit, Georgia Conference, which were read, and referred to the Committee on Revisals.

T. N. Ralston moved to take up the Report of the Committee on Revisals.—The motion was withdrawn.

On motion of John Early, the Report of the Committee on Finance, on which the Conference adjourned on Wednesday last, was then taken up.

The discussion of the motion before the Conference at its adjournment on Wednesday, was now resumed, viz. :

*Resolved*, That we reconsider the vote by which we determined to have two divisions of our Book Concern.

L. M. Lee having consumed his time, on motion of John Early, was allowed to conclude his speech.

On motion of T. Crowder, the motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Bishop Andrew now took the chair, and Conference entered upon the subject of fixing the location of the Eastern Division of the Book Concern.

T. Crowder moved, that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at 4 o'clock this afternoon.—This motion was carried.

George W. Brush moved, that we now adjourn.—This motion was lost.

The discussion progressed further, and then Conference adjourned, with the benediction by the Bishop.

### *Friday Afternoon, May 15.*

Conference met, agreeably to adjournment, at 4 o'clock; and after religious service, conducted by Dr. Hamilton, proceeded to business—Bishop Andrew in the chair.

The Journals were read and approved.

The discussion was resumed on the location of the Eastern Division of the Book Concern.

The time of Dr. Smith having expired, he was allowed to conclude his speech.

On motion of Dr. Longstreet, it was resolved to take the vote by ballot.

On the second balloting, Richmond, Va., was chosen as the location of the Eastern Division of the Book Concern, and then Conference adjourned.

*Saturday Morning, May 16.*

Conference met at the stated hour, and after divine service, conducted by Dr. Winans, proceeded to business, Bishop Soule in the chair.

The Journals were read and approved.

Bishop Soule introduced to the Conference Bishop Paine, one of the bishops ordained on Thursday last, who now took the chair.

The Report of the Committee of Finance was now taken up.

F. E. Pitts moved to amend the first item of the Report, by striking out Louisville, and inserting Nashville. A division of the question was called for, when T. N. Ralston moved, as a substitute for the motion to amend, that the vote in selecting the location of the Western Division of the Book Concern, be taken by ballot.—Withdrawn.

F. E. Pitts now moved that Louisville be stricken out.

A motion to suspend the rule limiting the speaker to fifteen minutes, during this discussion, prevailed.

Dr. Smith proposed that Louisville be stricken out by common consent, with a view to select the place by ballot.

F. E. Pitts admitted the proposition of Dr. Smith as a modification of his motion to strike out Louisville.—The motion then prevailed.

E. Stevenson, now moved that we proceed to select the location for the Western Division of the Book Concern by ballot.—The motion prevailed.

The following places were put in nomination, *viz.*: Nashville, Louisville, Memphis, Cincinnati, and Covington. The claims of the several places having been set forth by their respective

advocates, on the second balloting, Louisville, having received a majority of the whole number of votes, was chosen as the location of the Western Division of the Book Concern.

Jerome C. Berryman obtained leave of absence during the remainder of the session, and then Conference adjourned, with the benediction by the bishop.

*Monday Morning, May 18.*

Conference met at the stated hour, and after divine service, conducted by T. K. Catlett, proceeded to business, Bishop Soule in the chair.

The Journals were read and approved.

John H. Linn, from the Committee on Sabbath-schools, presented their Report, and a motion to adopt being withdrawn by T. N. Ralston, on motion of Whitefoord Smith, the Report was laid on the table for the present.

Dr. Bascom asked leave of absence for J. H. Linn during the remainder of the session.—Granted.

Dr. Smith, from the Committee on Finance, presented their Fourth Report, which was read, and, on motion of J. E. Evans, was laid on the table for the present.

Dr. Smith, from the same Committee, also presented their Fifth Report, which was read, and on motion of A. F. Driskell, was laid on the table for the present.

Dr. G. F. Pierce, from the Committee on Itinerancy, presented their Fifth Report, which was read, and adopted, as follows:—

The Committee on Itinerancy beg leave to report, That they have taken into consideration the resolution referred to them, instructing them to prepare a rule forbidding the appointment “of more than one travelling preacher as President or Professor to any of our Colleges or Seminaries, unless in the judgment of the bishops it is absolutely necessary for the good of said institutions,” and conclude that it is inexpedient, at the present time, to enact any new law or resolution on this subject. The committee, however, regard the policy of crowding effective preachers in our Institutions of Learning, as inconsistent with our itinerant economy, and as detrimental to the cause of education among our people; but believe the true remedy is to be found in the Annual

Conferences and the Episcopal administration. They further regard the practice of receiving men on trial in the annual conferences, in special reference to such appointments, as a direct infringement of our plan, and as an evil which, let alone, would grow to dangerous strength. They therefore recommend, that no man hereafter be appointed to the Presidency, or to any Professorship in our institutions, who has not travelled two full years, and been received, in the regular way, into full connection.

Respectfully submitted.

G. F. PIERCE, *Chairman*.

On motion of Thos. O. Summers, the Seventh Report of the Committee on Missions was taken up.

Dr. Smith moved its adoption.

A motion of G. W. D. Harris to take it up item by item, was lost, and the Report was adopted as follows:—

#### REPORT No. 7.

The Committee on Missions, to whom was referred the Document from the South Carolina Conference, being a report of a committee of that conference, which was adopted by the conference, and sent hither for the action of the General Conference, with a view to the establishing of a uniform system throughout the connection, for having the gospel more fully preached to the people of colour, respectfully report: That they have had said document under careful consideration; and although it appears to your committee that, at present, the work is not sufficiently advanced in all parts of the connection to allow of the establishment of a system of regulations which should be the same, and operate alike in all of the conferences without danger of retarding the more advanced portions of the work more than it might assist those which are behind, yet, considering that the document before us has been drawn up as dictated by experience, and that it recommends itself to our judgments as being calculated to make the most extensive and efficient use that can be made of our whole ministry, including local preachers and exhorters, in the work of evangelizing the slave population of these states wherever it can be carried out, so that it is desirable for all the conferences to work up to it as fast as they can.



Therefore your committee recommend that it be, substantially, adopted, as far as the several conferences shall find it practicable, as follows :—

1. With respect to the slave population of these states, we do not consider that our duty can be discharged by detaching any number of ministers to act as missionaries in particular fields, whilst there exists a crying deficiency of ministerial service in other parts. No diligence of the missionaries can supply this deficiency, or atone for any remissness on the part of those who minister in circuits or stations. The duty is binding on all, according to their ability, and it is binding on all as they are severally able, with the same force of indispensable obligation.

2. Let only those neighbourhoods be occupied by missionaries, to be supported by the missionary funds, which are not included within the range of our circuit appointments. And if, in the progress of the work, the preaching-places of any mission and circuit, or station, shall approximate so near together as that the people might be served by either the missionary or the circuit preacher, let such preaching-places be yielded to the circuit or station, unless the Quarterly Conference deem it inadvisable.

3. Let the coloured people, where separate accommodations for ministering to them may not have been provided, be included in the same pastoral charge with the whites ; both classes forming one congregation, with separate sittings, as our practice usually has been. We consider this promotive of mutual kindness and good-will.

4. At all our circuit appointments, where galleries or other suitable sittings have not been provided for the people of colour, or where the galleries or other sittings provided for them are insufficient, let our brethren and friends provide the necessary accommodations. And let the preachers exert their influence to procure the doing of this ; and to induce our coloured friends to attend public worship at the churches with the whites.

5. At our camp-meetings let such accommodations be furnished at the back of the stand, or pulpit, as shall be convenient for the holding of prayer-meetings among the coloured people, after preaching, as is usual with the whites, in front of the stand. And let the presiding minister appoint one or more of the preachers to conduct these prayer-meetings, with the aid of the coloured leaders from time to time.

6. At all our Sunday appointments in the circuits where there are many coloured people, or where any considerable number can be induced to attend, and whether the preacher for the day be itinerant or local, or if he be only an exhorter, let a meeting be held chiefly for the purpose of giving catechetical instruction, orally, both to the adults and children. And let those who have been admitted on trial be especially exhorted to attend class-meetings, that they may learn to answer, understandingly, the questions to be propounded to them at baptism, and arrive at some competent knowledge of Christian doctrine before they are received into fellowship.

7. At the first Quarterly Meeting in each of the circuits, if not sooner, and from year to year, let the preacher in charge arrange with the local preachers and exhorters a plan of Sabbath appointments for the year, and report it to the Quarterly Conference, so as to secure as many of the appointments of the local preachers and exhorters as possible at those places where the coloured people are numerous, and the travelling preachers have their appointments on week days.

8. At those preaching places where local preachers attend on the Sabbath days, and the circuit preachers in the week, let the preacher in charge engage some one of them to act for him in receiving and excluding members. And let such local preacher thus acting, inform him from time to time of all that is done, that he may report it to the Quarterly Conference, as the Discipline directs.

9. In neighbourhoods within reach of the circuit appointments, and where the coloured population is very numerous, if individual proprietors, owning many slaves, shall not be satisfied that enough can be done for them, on the above plan, at the place of preaching, but wish to employ a local preacher to serve them at their plantations, let it be done with the consent of the Quarterly Conference. But in all cases where such especial service is rendered, we advise that it be done at hours which shall not interfere with the regular public worship.

10. Let the missionaries employ all the time they can in the important duty of imparting Christian knowledge by catechetical instruction, both to adults and children; visiting the sick and decrepid, and making themselves acquainted with the spiritual

condition of their people, as well as in the work of preaching the gospel at stated times.

All which is respectfully submitted.

W. CAPERS, *Chairman*.

The Fourth Report of the Committee on Missions was then taken up and adopted, as follows:—

REPORT, No. 4.

The Committee on Missions, to whom it was referred to consider of the propriety of instituting a mission for the benefit of the Jews, having had that subject under consideration, beg leave to report—

That it appears to your committee to be desirable to institute such a mission whenever it shall be deemed, by an Annual Conference, that the way is open for it within its bounds. Your committee therefore offer the following Resolution for adoption:—

*Resolved*, That we recommend those Annual Conferences within whose bounds the Jews are numerous, to solicit of the Bishop the appointment of a missionary to labour among them, whenever it shall appear, to the satisfaction of any one of said conferences that the way is open, with a prospect of success.

Respectfully submitted.

W. CAPERS, *Chairman*.

The Report of the Committee on Revisals was then taken up.

T. N. Ralston moved to take up the Report section by section.—Carried.

The following Resolutions were offered by W. J. Parks, but not adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the Report of the Committee on Revisals be recommitted, with instructions to report separately to this Conference, for its action, all the items in which any *change* in the Discipline as to *matter* is recommended, and that the arrangements as to *order* be left to the discretion of the committee.

*Resolved*, 2. That it be made the order of the day for tomorrow.

The Conference, on motion of Dr. Smith, resolved to reconsider the vote determining to take up the Report section by section.

The motion of T. N. Ralston being withdrawn, on motion of Dr. Smith, that part of the Report which relates to the mere order and arrangement of the chapters, sections, and paragraphs, was adopted.

On motion of Dr. Smith, the Conference resolved to take up, item by item, so much of the Report as recommends the alteration of the language of the Discipline.

The item which refers to the trial of local preachers, proposing certain changes in the language of the Discipline, was read. Dr. G. F. Pierce moved its adoption. James E. Evans moved to lay it on the table.—This motion was lost. T. N. Ralston moved so to amend the Resolution that it shall embrace the adoption of this part of the Report, but that it be not published in the Discipline.—This amendment was withdrawn. On motion of B. M. Drake, that part of the Report was laid on the table.

The second item on that subject was then read, and laid on the table.

The third item being read, a motion to adopt it was lost.

The fourth item, in reference to the trial of members, was read, but not adopted.

W. J. Parks moved that the committee have leave to withdraw that part of the Report not acted on.—The motion was carried. The committee then withdrew the remainder of the Report not acted on.

B. M. Drake moved, that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at 4 o'clock.—This motion was carried.

It was then moved that the Report as a whole, embracing those parts not laid on the table or withdrawn by the committee, be adopted.—While this motion was pending, the hour of adjournment arrived, and Conference adjourned, with the benediction by the Bishop.

### *Monday Afternoon, May 18.*

Conference met, according to adjournment. After religious services conducted by F. G. Ferguson, Conference proceeded to business, Bishop Capers in the chair.

The Journal was read and approved.

The Report of the Committee on Revisals was taken up, and

the resolution to adopt the Report as a whole, was discussed and adopted.

T. N. Ralston, from the Committee on Revisals, presented their Second Report, as follows :—

### REPORT, No. 2.

The Committee on Revisals report, that having had under consideration the Report of the Revisal Committee appointed by the Louisville Convention, which had been referred to us, we recommend the adoption of the first, second, and third items of said Report.

T. N. RALSTON, *Chairman*.

James E. Evans moved its adoption. W. Browning moved an amendment to conform the language of said Report to the Declaration of the Delegates of the conferences in the slave-holding States, made to the General Conference of 1844.—The amendment was adopted. On motion of J. E. Evans, the Report, as amended, was adopted.

The items referred to, are as follows :—

1. That on the Title-page, on pages 3, 7, 23, 28, and in sundry places in the Second Part, the word *South* be added to the words *M. E. Church*; the names of Bishops Soule, Andrew, Capers, and Paine, being alone retained at the close of the Preface.

2. That various other changes dependent on the action of the present General Conference, such as those referring to the Book Concern, Chartered Fund, the Missionary System, Sunday-school Union, Editors of Northern Papers, and the like, all of which being yet prospective, and lying beyond the reach of the present committee, be, and they hereby are, referred to the Committee on Revisals.

3. They recommend the adoption of the following article, to be inserted as the second section of the first chapter of the Discipline, under the head of "The Organization of the M. E. Church, South," viz. :

### SECTION 2.

*Of the Organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.*

In the judgment of the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in the slave-holding States, the continued agitation of

the subject of slavery and abolition in a portion of the Church; the frequent action on that subject in the General Conference; and especially the proceedings of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of 1844, in the case of the Rev. James O. Andrew, D. D., one of the bishops, who had become connected with slavery by marriage, produced a state of things in the South which rendered a continuance of the jurisdiction of that General Conference over the conferences aforesaid, inconsistent with the success of the ministry in their proper calling. This conviction they declared in solemn form to the General Conference, accompanied with a protest against the action referred to, assured that public opinion, in the slave-holding States, would demand, and that a due regard to the vital interests of Christ's kingdom would justify, a separate and independent organization. The developments of a few months vindicated their anticipations. The Church in the South and Southwest, in her primary assemblies, her Quarterly and Annual Conferences, with a unanimity unparalleled in ecclesiastical history, approved the course of their delegates, and declared her conviction that a separate jurisdiction was necessary to her existence and prosperity. The General Conference, of 1844, having adopted a "Plan of Separation," provided for the erection of the Annual Conferences in the slave-holding States into a separate ecclesiastical connection, under the jurisdiction of a Southern General Conference, the delegates of the aforementioned conferences, in a published address, recommended that a convention of delegates from the said conferences, duly instructed as to the wishes of the ministry and laity, should assemble at Louisville, Ky., on the first day of May, 1845.

The Convention met, delegates having been formally appointed, in pursuance of this recommendation; and after a full and minute representation of all the facts in the premises, acting under the Provisional Plan of Separation, declared by solemn resolutions, the jurisdiction hitherto exercised by the General Conference of the M. E. Church over the conferences in the slave-holding States, *entirely dissolved*, and erected the said Annual Conferences into a separate ecclesiastical connection, under the style and title of "The Methodist Episcopal Church, South," the first General Conference of which was held in the town of Petersburg, Va., on the first day of May, 1846.

W. M. Wightman now moved the adoption of the fourth item of the Report of the Revisal Committee appointed by the Louisville Convention.

E. W. Schon moved to amend the motion to adopt, so as to require the matter proposed to be appended to the tenth section, not to be inserted in the Discipline, but incorporated in the Pastoral Address.

While the motion to amend was pending, on motion of John Early, the Conference adjourned, the benediction being pronounced by the Bishop.

*Tuesday Morning, May 19.*

Conference met at the stated hour, and after religious services, conducted by P. T. Crouch, proceeded to business, Bishop Soule in the chair.

The Journals were read and approved.

Dr. Smith, from the Committee on Finance, presented their Sixth Report, as follows:—

SIXTH REPORT.

The Committee on Finance, to which was referred a resolution “to digest a plan for the promotion of uniformity in the price of our weekly periodicals, the regulation of agencies, the emission of free papers, and for the general welfare of our periodicals,” report as follows:—

1. The subscription price shall be *two* dollars cash, and the payment of that amount to an agent within three months after receiving the first number, shall be considered cash.

2. In all cases when payment is delayed more than three months, the price shall be *two* dollars and *fifty* cents.

3. The paper shall be discontinued, in all cases, at the end of twelve months from the time of the subscription, unless the amount be paid.

4. The payment of the amount of subscription to an agent, or the assumption of it by an agent, shall be entered to subscribers' credit, as paid.

5. All Itinerant Preachers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, shall be authorized agents.

6. No paper shall be sent to agents *gratis*; but they shall be

allowed a discount of *twenty-five* per cent. on their own subscriptions; *ten* per cent. on all collections from current subscribers; and *twenty* per cent. on new subscriptions accompanied with the cash, or the agent's responsibility to be charged to his account.

W. A. SMITH, *Chairman*.

A motion to adopt this Report having been made, H. H. Kavanaugh moved to amend by striking out the word "*cash*," and inserting the words "*in advance*."—This motion was carried.

J. Early moved to strike out the words "payment in three months shall be considered in advance."

Whitefoord Smith moved to lay the amendment, with the Report, on the table.—This motion was lost.—The motion to amend was withdrawn.

A motion made by W. Smith, to amend by striking out the last item, was lost.

A motion made by E. Stevenson, to amend the last item by striking out "twenty" and "twenty-five" where they occur, and inserting "ten," was lost.

Dr. Hamilton moved to amend the first item by striking out all after the word "advance."

On motion of Dr. Boring, the motion to adopt, the motion to amend, and the Report, were laid on the table.

Dr. Smith, from the Committee on Finance, presented their Seventh Report, which was read, and laid on the table for the present.

The Report is as follows:—

"The Finance Committee respectfully submit their Seventh and Final Report, to wit:—

*Resolved*, That we fully approve the course pursued by the Committee of Publication appointed by the Convention at Louisville last May, to publish a book entitled, "The History of the Organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South;" and believing said Book contains all that is necessary for a faithful perpetuation of the history of the Southern Organization, we do hereby heartily recommend the same to our preachers and people throughout the M. E. Church, South.

2. *Resolved*, That the editor of the S. W. C. Advocate transfer the books on hand, together with the notes and bills receiva-



ble for the sale of said books, to the Book agent at \_\_\_\_\_, and that said agent become responsible for all the debts incurred by the editor of the S. W. C. Advocate in the publication of said History.

3. *Resolved*, That, after all the expenses that have been or may hereafter be incurred by the publication and sale of said book shall be paid, the profits arising therefrom, if any, shall be appropriated by the Book agent at \_\_\_\_\_, under the direction of the Book Committee, to the support of the Book Concern of the M. E. Church, South.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

May 18, 1846.

W. A. SMITH, *Chairman*.

Bishop Paine now took the chair.

Petitions and Memorials were now called for.

Dr. Winans moved that the call for petitions and memorials be hereafter dispensed with. This motion was carried.

William Patton offered the following resolution :—

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Finance be instructed to inquire into the present and prospective financial condition of our Church periodicals, to wit : The Richmond, Southern, and South-western Christian Advocates, and report to the Conference at their earliest convenience.

Dr. Green moved, as a substitute, that the editors of the several papers be requested to present to this Conference a statement of the financial condition of their papers.—This motion was carried.

On motion of John Early, the Resolution of E. W. Sehon to amend the resolution of W. M. Wightman, recommending the adoption of the fourth item in the Report of the Revisal Committee, appointed by the Louisville Convention, was now taken up.—The item is as follows :—

4. In reference to the tenth section, “Of Slavery,” they recommend, that no change be made; but that the following explanatory paragraph be appended to it, to wit :—

The foregoing section is held and understood by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in the sense of the following declarations made by the M. E. Church, at the General Conferences of 1836 and 1840. In the language of the former, we

“wholly disclaim any right, wish, or intention to interfere in the civil and political relation between master and slave, as it exists in the slave-holding States of this Union.”—*Resolutions of the General Conference of 1836.*

We agree with that General Conference in considering this subject as “put beyond the power of legislation by the General Government, as well as the control of ecclesiastical bodies.” We affirm, with them, that the “only safe, scriptural, and prudent way for us, both as ministers and people, is wholly to refrain from this agitating subject.”—*Pastoral Address of 1836.*

We repeat the declaration of the General Conference of 1840, that “the simple holding of slaves, or mere ownership of slave-property in States or Territories where the laws do not admit of emancipation and permit the liberated slave to enjoy freedom, constitutes no legal barrier to the election or ordination of ministers to the various grades of office known in the M. E. Church, and cannot therefore be considered as operating any forfeiture of right, in view of such election and ordination.”—*Report on Petitions from Westmoreland.*

The M. E. Church, South, recognizes the Episcopacy as one of the grades of ministerial office.

E. W. Sehon’s amendment proposes that this explanatory paragraph be not inserted in the Discipline, but incorporated in the Pastoral Address.

Dr. Boring offered the following Resolution as a substitute for both the amendment and the original Resolution:—

*Resolved*, That Slavery, as it exists in these United States, being a civil institution, as set forth in the Plan of Organization of the M. E. Church, South, is not a proper subject of ecclesiastical legislation.—This resolution was withdrawn.

E. W. Sehon withdrew his motion to amend.

The question now being on the adoption of the original Resolution, Dr. Smith presented the following substitute, which was lost:—

*Resolved*, That the Committee on the Pastoral Address be, and they are hereby, required to embody in their report a suitable exposition of the Tenth section of the Discipline.

A motion made by Dr. Bascom to refer the whole subject to a special committee of Conference, was lost.

The vote on the original Resolution was now taken and decided in the negative.

Bishop Andrew proceeded to address the Conference at some length on the subject just determined.

Whitefoord Smith obtained leave of absence after to-day's session.

It was then resolved, that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

The Conference now resumed the consideration of the Third Report of the Committee on Finance.

The second item having been read, Bishop Soule proceeded to address the Conference at length on the subject of the Book Concern.

The Conference then adjourned, with the benediction by the Bishop.

### *Tuesday Afternoon, May 19.*

Conference met agreeably to adjournment. The usual devotions were conducted by William McMahon. Bishop Capers occupied the chair.

The Journals were read and approved.

On motion of John Early, the Conference laid on the table the business on which it adjourned, to give way for the consideration of the Report of the Committee on Boundaries, in reference to the line between the South Carolina and North Carolina Conferences.

That part of the Report of the Committee on Boundaries being taken up, S. S. Bryant moved as follows:

North Carolina Conference shall be bounded on the East by the Atlantic ocean; on the North by Albemarle Sound, Roanoke and Staunton Rivers; on the West, by the top of the Blue Ridge, including the counties of Wilkes and Iredell; on the South by the south lines of Iredell and Rowan; thence by the Yadkin and Great Pedee rivers to the State line; and thence by the State line to the ocean.

This motion was carried.

Nicholas Talley moved that the line between the North Carolina and South Carolina conferences be the line separating those

States, and that South Carolina Conference be annexed to Georgia Conference.

On motion of F. Wilson, this motion was laid on the table for the present.

J. Boyle moved to reconsider the vote by which the line was fixed between the North and South Carolina conferences.—While this motion was pending, Conference adjourned, with the benediction by the Bishop.

*Wednesday Morning, May 20.*

Conference met. The usual religious services were conducted by Greenbury Garrett.—Bishop Soule in the chair.

The Journals were read and approved.

Dr. Lovick Pierce, from the Committee on the American Bible Society, presented their Report, as follows:—

The Committee to whom the claims of the American Bible Society were referred, beg leave to report:—

That this noble Institution commends itself to the confidence and liberal support of the church and country, whether we regard the benevolence of its design, the fidelity of its management, or the success of its operations. The committee cannot enumerate all the reasons which justify our countenance and co-operation, nor, indeed, elaborate the details of any, but will present three considerations, in their judgment ample both as to authority and encouragement.

First, the unremitting efforts of the Society to place a copy of the Holy Bible in the hands of every man, woman, and child in our own country, in the shortest time possible for so vast a work. This design has been zealously carried out by the Parent Association through its auxiliaries, and by its own direct action, which, like the heart in the animal economy, is the great propelling power, producing and promoting a healthful circulation.

The obligation to become co-labourers in this enterprise of supplying all classes of our rapidly increasing population with the Scriptures of truth, can be measured only by the value of the Bible in a government where vice tends to destroy the only life-preserving element in its structure, and virtue to nourish and perpetuate it. This vital principle is morality, religion. That

religion which derives its existence from God, and finds the rule of its faith and practice in the inspired volume.

It should never be forgotten by an American citizen, that there is not, perhaps, in the wide world, another nation made up of so great a variety of human beings as may be found in these United States. The ports of our country are open to the free admission of emigrants from all parts of the earth. No jealous or watchful policy of political quarantine has ever restrained or delayed the entrance of the stranger and foreigner among us. This state of things must introduce into our midst an evil leaven, for which government can provide no antidote; for when a man steps upon our shores, he entrenches himself behind the constitution and laws of the land, and triumphantly asserts his freedom of opinion. And if he has had his mind and prejudices trained, in politics and religion, to the belief of doctrines, the adoption of which, in this land, would lead to the defence of the wildest agrarianism on the one hand, or the most diabolical atheism on the other, our people have no alternative but to stand by, mournfully gazing upon the work of dilapidation, or to forestall this disastrous agency by impregnating the public mind with the truths of Revelation. It must be apparent to every reflecting mind, that, while the knowledge of the Bible is salutary under any form of civil government, it is indispensable to the purity and perpetuity of our own. And by how much the less the laws of the land may interfere to prevent the sad effects of a misguided and abused freedom, by so much the more is it our duty and interest to encourage the circulation of the Holy Scriptures among all classes of our citizens. The restraints which a belief in the threatened judgments of Heaven impose upon man in the civil, social, and moral relations of life, are neither few nor feeble; albeit, they may not be effectual for his regeneration and salvation. To the Bible then, and the strong moral suasion which may be drawn from its momentous truths, must we go; and upon their modifying, restraining, and purifying influence must we rely for the salvation of our country; for the nation's safety is to be found in the nation's purity.

The claims of the American Bible Society are vindicated and ought to be endeared to every lover of "the sincere milk of the word," by that constitutional law which restricts the work of publication to the *Bible without note or comment*, and by the

faithfulness with which they have adhered to this avowed purpose. For while it may be admitted that some inaccuracies are to be found in the English version commonly used, yet it may be doubted whether an entire new translation would not multiply rather than diminish errors. The plenary inspiration of the Sacred Writers would become a useless benefit to the world, if modern criticism were allowed to mutilate the present venerable version under the vain pretence of amendment, or of accommodation to the fastidious caviller.

Indeed it seems to us, that if in a few instances King James's translators should have transferred, rather than translated a word, it must have been because the simple translation of that particular word into a specific, definite term, would have incurred the danger of leading the mind into a greater error than could follow upon a transfer of that word to the English language. For by such transfer is to be understood, the merely using of the letters of our own alphabet in place of the Greek, in bringing that word into an English edition of the Old and New Testaments. If the above view is correct, it will be seen at once how much the American Bible Society did for the cause of truth and justice, when they refused to yield to the solicitation of a large and respectable church, to admit such a translation of a word as would narrow down the mind of a people in a foreign mission to a specific mode of baptism. No other reason could have operated upon the translators, when they simply *Anglicized* the Greek word from which we derive our notion of Christian baptism, than because such translation, whether pouring, sprinkling, or immersion, would have reduced a religious act to a *religious mode*, contrary to the analogy of faith. To give to the Holy Scriptures any sectarian bearing by a new translation of them, or even of a single doctrinal term, would be both unwise and injurious—unwise, because a denomination, seeking to give authority to their particular views by changing any word in the present authorized version, would only admit that such views are not well sustained without the change—injurious, because it would mar the unity of the Word, unsettle the foundations of confidence, and afford to infidelity the benefit of denying, on plausible grounds, the purity of the Bible as a divine rule of faith and practice.

Finally, your committee would offer, as a reason why the

American Bible Society should be liberally patronized, the very low price to which they have reduced Bibles and Testaments, and, consequently, the almost illimitable good they have enabled the benevolent to do at a very small cost. For twenty-five cents a donor may put an entire copy of the Bible into the hands of the forlorn and ignorant poor, and for six and a quarter cents, to some hapless orphan, the New Testament of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To the wisdom and zeal of this great Association is the country indebted for the present low prices, at which Bibles, of the finest material and workmanship, may be obtained; but especially of such quality and price as the poor, yet not utterly destitute, may purchase.

It is a truth too manifest to be denied, and too precious to be forgotten, that the price to which the blessed volume has been reduced, has put thousands of copies into circulation that else had slumbered upon the shelves of book-stores, unbought and unread. Nor will it be doubted, that the simple reading of "the law and the testimony" has been the instrumentality by which many have been brought to God and salvation. "Every man," saith Christ, "that hath heard and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me." The entrance of the Divine Word giveth light. It hath a voice, too, to awaken and charm; and as that voice peals in thunder along the solitude of a soul made dreary by the desolations of sin, conscience, aroused, echoes back the sound, till the guilty man, trembling, abashed and penitent, cries, in the fulness of his grief, "What shall I do to be saved?" and then the still, small voice whispers, "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Christ our Saviour died to redeem us to God, out of every kindred, and tongue, and people; and the love of Christ should constrain us to do "as much as in us is" to give to all earth's ransomed millions the only book, in this world of books, which pours the light of Heaven upon the pathway of man to his tomb and his eternity.

Your committee offer the following resolutions for adoption:

*Resolved*, By the delegates of the annual conferences of the M. E. Church, South, in General Conference assembled, That we will heartily co-operate with the American Bible Society, in the glorious work of giving the Bible to the whole world without delay.

*Resolved*, That we will earnestly recommend the American Bible Society to all our people, and urge them to a more liberal support of the noble enterprise.

*Resolved*, That we believe the destitution of Bibles in our own States and Territories is much greater than is generally supposed; and that the only plan of supply that will remove this great evil from among us, is the one now practised, of carrying the Scriptures to every family, and knowing that all are supplied.

*Resolved*, That we recommend to all our conferences, districts, circuits, and stations, to aid, in every way they can, the speedy supply of the whole American people.

Respectfully submitted.

L. PIERCE, *Chairman*.

*Petersburg, Va., May 20, 1846.*

This Report was read, adopted, and ordered to be published in the newspapers of the M. E. Church, South.

F. G. Ferguson offered and withdrew a motion to take up the Report of the Committee on Finance, relating to the appointment of commissioners to negotiate with commissioners of the M. E. Church, in regard to our interests in the Book Concern.

The Conference then resumed the consideration of the motion to reconsider the vote determining the line between the North Carolina and South Carolina Conferences. The motion to reconsider prevailed. The question then recurred on the resolution offered by S. S. Bryant, on yesterday. The resolution was not adopted. That part of the Report of the Committee on Boundaries was then adopted.

The Report of the Committee on Finance relating to the establishing of a Book Concern, was now taken up.

The second item was read.

Thomas Crowder moved that the provision requiring an assistant agent at the Eastern division be stricken out. B. T. Crouch moved, as an amendment, that the like provision for the Western division be stricken out. This amendment was admitted, and the vote was taken on the motion to strike out the provision for assistant agent, first, in reference to the Eastern; and, secondly, in reference to the Western division; and in both cases the motion prevailed.



Dr. L. Pierce moved a reconsideration of the entire action had by the Conference on the subject of establishing a Book Concern.

Bishop Paine now took the chair.

It was resolved, that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

A motion to suspend the fifteen-minute rule, during this discussion, was lost; and then the Conference adjourned, with the benediction by the Bishop.

*Wednesday Afternoon, May 20.*

Conference met, according to adjournment. W. J. Parks conducted the usual devotions. Bishop Capers in the chair.

The Journals were read and approved.

The Conference resumed the consideration of the Report of the Committee on Finance in relation to the establishment of a Book Concern. The motion of Dr. L. Pierce, to reconsider the entire action of the Conference on that subject was in order. On taking the vote, the motion to reconsider was lost.

T. Crowder moved the adoption of the second item of the report as amended.

Dr. Smith moved to strike out all after the words "General Conference." This motion was lost.

E. Stevenson moved to amend, by adding the following words: "Nevertheless, the Book Committee in the West, and the Agent, with the approbation of one or more of the bishops, shall have the privilege of appointing an assistant agent for that division of the Concern at any time between this and the next session of the General Conference." The motion to amend prevailed, and the second item was then adopted.

The third item was read, and W. J. Parks moved that it be so amended as to prohibit the book agents from printing any books before the next session of the General Conference, in 1850.

On motion of W. M. McFerrin, the motion to amend was laid on the table.

The third item, on motion of T. Crowder, was then adopted.

The fourth item was read, and J. E. Evans moved to amend it by striking out the words "Virginia and North Carolina,"

and inserting "South Carolina and Georgia." This motion to amend was laid on the table. The fourth item was then adopted.

The fifth item was read, and, on motion of J. B. McFerrin, laid on the table for the present.

The sixth item was read, and, on motion of J. B. McFerrin, laid on the table for the present.

The seventh item was read.

Dr. Baskerville moved its adoption.

J. B. McFerrin moved to amend, by adding the words, "when a sufficient number of subscribers shall have been obtained to sustain the expense of said publication." This amendment prevailed, and the seventh item was adopted.

The eighth item was read; and, on motion of F. Wilson, Conference adjourned, with the benediction by the Bishop.

*Thursday Morning, May 21.*

Conference met at the stated hour, and was called to order by Bishop Soule. The religious exercises were conducted by S. W. Capers. Bishop Andrew in the chair.

The Journals were read and approved.

Dr. Bascom, from the Committee on Literary Institutions, presented their Second Report, which was read and adopted, as follows:—

The Committee on Literary Institutions, beg leave to report as follows:—

Inasmuch as the Trustees of Transylvania University have requested the General Conference to regard the different Professorships in the Literary Department of the University as *vacant*, and open to be officered by this Body; and, whereas it is considered as indispensable to secure the general and zealous co-operation of the Church South, that its different sections should be ably, and, as far as possible, equally, represented in the faculty: Therefore,

*Resolved*, That Geo. F. Pierce, D. D., and John Barker, A. M., be, and they are hereby nominated to fill such chairs as may be

agreed upon by the Curators and Trustees, on the one hand, and the nominees on the other; and that the former sustain to the University the relation of *Vice President*.

*Resolved*, That the necessary arrangements and appointments, with regard to the Senior and Junior sections of the preparatory departments, be confided to the Curators and Trustees of the University.

*Resolved*, That the action of this body, in re-organizing the Faculty of Arts of Transylvania University, proceeds upon the principle, that each section of the South should be represented in the University, and the conviction that the interests of the Church require, that our Literary Institutions be supplied, when it is practicable, with laymen, and local rather than travelling ministers; and that such action is not to be understood as in any way reflecting upon either the character or qualifications of the present incumbents in Transylvania University.

*Resolved*, That should the Board of Curators deem it necessary, any one of the bishops of the M. E. Church, South, is authorized and requested to appoint, upon nomination by the Curators, in behalf of the Church, a general Agent of Transylvania University.

H. B. BASCOM, *Chairman*.

*Petersburg, Va., May 21, 1846.*

W. M. Wightman presented a report in reference to the Southern Christian Advocate, which was read, received, and laid on the table for the present. It is as follows:—

The Publishing Committee of the Southern Christian Advocate beg respectfully to report:

That the establishment is in a state of decided and increasing prosperity. During the past year, say from January 1, 1845, to January 1, 1846, about two thousand five hundred new subscribers were received, and added to the list. Since the first of January, 1846, to April 15, five hundred new subscribers were received. There are now six thousand seven hundred sheets issued weekly, of which six thousand four hundred are sent to regular subscribers. The price at which the paper was formerly published was three dollars per annum. At the beginning of the past year, at the instance of the South Carolina and

Georgia Conferences, the price was reduced from three to two dollars a year, paid in advance, which reduction of price has worked well. The Publishing Committee hold an improved Napier power-press, which cost nineteen hundred dollars, and has been paid for. They likewise have a job-office, valued at twelve hundred dollars, which has been paid for. With the exception of a balance due the New York Book Concern, which, under existing circumstances, the committee have not felt themselves authorized to pay, the Southern Christian Advocate is entirely free from debt, with a balance of between two and three hundred dollars in the Treasurer's hands. It occupies a position which will render the establishment considerably serviceable hereafter to the Church in a pecuniary view.

The Publishing Committee considered it highly desirable, on many accounts, to have the size of the Southern Christian Advocate enlarged, and the quality of the paper improved. They have on hand a full supply of new type, and the additional expense will be principally in the article of paper. They accordingly have made the necessary arrangements, and in enlarged and improved form the ensuing volume will be issued, commencing about the twentieth of June next.

The publication resting on a substantial basis, free from all pecuniary embarrassment, with an increasing list of subscribers, and a larger circulation than any religious or secular paper published in the Southern Atlantic States, besides occupying an influential position among similar publications throughout the country, seems to your committee to render it very desirable to have an additional editor, appointed under the authority of the General Conference of the M. E. Church, South.

The following Exhibit will show the present state of the liabilities and assets of the Concern :

#### LIABILITIES.

Balance due Lane & Tippet,	. . . . .	\$660 00
Amount due ditto for several founts of type, yet		
unopened,	. . . . .	500 00
		<hr/>
		\$1160 00
		<hr/>

## ASSETS.

Printing-office, Napier-press, types, and furniture, . . . . .	\$3000 00
Job-office, . . . . .	1200 00
Balance in Treasurer's hand, . . . . .	240 00
Amount due on Subscription, say \$5000, of which \$2000 may be considered good, . . . . .	2000 00
	<hr/>
	\$6440 00

Showing a Balance in favour of the Establishment, exclusive of arrearages due, of . \$2280 00

Respectfully submitted.

Signed in behalf of the Publishing Committee,  
R. J. BOYD, *Chairman.*

*Charleston, April 22, 1846.*

J. B. McFerrin presented a Report in reference to the South-western Christian Advocate, as follows:—

*An Exhibit of the Condition and Resources of the South-western Christian Advocate Office, April 1, 1846.*

## VALUE OF OFFICE AND FIXTURES.

One power-press, . . . . .	\$1500 00
Types and furniture, . . . . .	1000 00
Two hand-presses, . . . . .	330 00

## DEBTS DUE TO THE OFFICE.

On account of "History," . . . . .	1693 50
Jobs, . . . . .	191 75
On subscriptions, at lowest estimate, . . . . .	20,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$24,715 25

## LIABILITIES.

Bills payable, . . . . .	\$938 91
Running accounts, . . . . .	1800 00
	<hr/>
	\$2738 91
Balance, . . . . .	<hr/>
	\$21,976 34

N. B. A considerable deduction should be made for bad debts.

J. B. McFERRIN.

This Report was read, received, and laid on the table for the present.

Dr. Smith presented a Report in reference to the Richmond Christian Advocate, as follows :—

The Publishing Committee of the Richmond Christian Advocate, submit the following Report, viz. :

*A General View of the Condition of the Richmond Christian Advocate, as exhibited by the Balance Account at the first of November, 1845.*

THE ASSETS AS FOLLOWS :

1. Its presses, types, stands, book-cases, are put down on the books at . . . . .	\$1613 79
2. The subscription debts due from subscribers, . . . . .	5996 25
3. Other debts, . . . . .	1331 70
	<hr/>
	\$8941 74

THE LIABILITIES AS FOLLOWS :

In bonds and notes, . . . . .	\$3581 95
The grant of the General Conference, of 1844, entered to the credit of the Book Concern, . . . . .	2500 00
Total of other debts, . . . . .	297 68
The surplus to the credit of the Richmond Chris- tian Advocate, . . . . .	2562 11
	<hr/>
	\$8941 74

*The present Prospect of the Richmond Christian Advocate.*

Amount of quires of paper wet down to supply subscribers, agents, and exchanges, is 170.  $170 \times 24 = 4080$  sheets ; but owing to quires falling short, 170 quires will only net sheets equal to 3931

Deduct for agents and exchange free papers, 355

At 2 dollars,  $3576 = \$7152$  00

The Expense for the last six months has

been, (Nov. 1, 1845, to May 1, 1846,) \$3378 25

Allow the same for the next six months,  $3378\ 25 = \$6756$  50

Balance left, \$395 50

This Report was read, received, and laid on the table for the present.

The Report of the Committee on Episcopacy, (No. 5,) in reference to the support of the Bishops, was taken up, and read. A motion to adopt it being made, T. Crowder presented, as a substitute for the foregoing, the Sixth Report of the Committee on Episcopacy, which was laid on the table for the present.

The Conference now resumed the consideration of the Report of the Committee on Finance relative to the Book Concern. The eighth item was read.

A. Monroe moved to amend by adding the words "except the proceeds of the several papers, which, so far as may be necessary, may be applied, annually, to the support of the Bishops of the M. E. Church, South." The amendment was lost.

Dr. Greene moved to substitute the twenty-seventh paragraph, part second, section eighth of the Discipline, for the eighth item of the Report. This motion was adopted.

The last resolution of the report was read.

William M. Wightman moved to amend by striking out the word "required," and inserting the word "requested."

The amendment of W. M. Wightman was discussed.

Dr. Baskerville moved, as a substitute for the amendment and resolution, that we deem it inexpedient to establish a Book Concern in the M. E. Church, South, until the General Conference of 1850. The substitute was laid on the table.

The question now recurred on the amendment of W. M. Wightman.

G. W. Brush moved to lay the amendment on the table. This motion prevailed.

T. Crowder moved a reconsideration of the entire action of the Conference on the Report of the Committee on Finance, in reference to the Book Concern, with a view to refer it to a select committee. This motion prevailed.

J. E. Evans moved to refer the whole matter to a select committee of nine. This motion was carried. The Bishop announced the committee as follows, viz.: John Lane, Abraham Penn, Samuel Patton, Sam. W. Capers, Wm. J. Parks, E. Callo-way, M. Brock, H. H. Kavanaugh, and E. W. Sehon.

The Conference then adjourned, with the benediction by the Bishop.

*Friday Morning, May 22.*

Conference met, according to adjournment. J. C. Harrison conducted the usual devotions. Bishop Capers in the chair.

The Journal was read and approved.

C. B. Parsons obtained leave of absence after to-day.

John Lane, from the Select Committee of Nine, appointed on the subject of the establishment of a Book Concern, presented their Report.

The Report was read, and a motion was made to adopt it.

Dr. Winans moved to amend the Report by striking out the words "two agents," and inserting "one agent." This motion was withdrawn. The motion to adopt was then withdrawn.

E. Stevenson moved to consider the Report item by item. This motion obtained.

The first item was read.

Dr. Baskerville moved to lay that item on the table, in order to take up the Report of the Committee on Finance, in reference to the appointment of Commissioners. This motion was withdrawn. The first item was then adopted—its two parts by separate votes. The first part, authorizing the publication of weekly papers in Nashville, Charleston, and Richmond; the second part authorizing the publication of a Quarterly Review, under the supervision of commissioners hereafter provided for.

The second item was read, and, on motion, laid on the table.

The third item was read.

Dr. Hamilton presented and withdrew an amendment.

B. T. Crouch offered the following Resolution, which was lost:

*Resolved*, That the further consideration of the subject now under consideration be postponed until Monday next; and that for the present we proceed to other business.

On motion of B. T. Crouch—

*Resolved*, That when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at four o'clock, P. M.; and that the business of the afternoon session shall be, the election of the Missionary Secretary, and to determine upon the place of holding the next General Conference of the M. E. Church, South, and also to attend to such other business as may be deemed expedient.

On motion of Dr. Winans, the following Resolutions were



adopted as a substitute for all that regards the Book Concern :—

*Resolved*, By the Delegates of the Annual Conferences of the M. E. Church, South, in General Conference assembled, That an agent be appointed, whose duty it shall be to provide for the supply of books for the M. E. Church, South, by contracting for such books where they can be obtained by him on the best terms; and that he shall cause such books to be deposited at Louisville, Charleston, and Richmond, subject to the orders of the itinerant preachers in the M. E. Church, South. He shall be responsible to the General Conference, and shall exhibit a full account of his agency to the General Conference.

2. *Resolved*, That there be a committee of three, styled the Book Committee, with whom the agent shall consult on all the matters of his agency.

3. *Resolved*, That the agent so appointed shall be authorized and required to receive any amount of accounts, stock, or money awarded to the M. E. Church, South, by the joint commissioners of the M. E. Church, and of the M. E. Church, South; and also any donations which may be made to the Book Concern of the M. E. Church, South, and shall make such investment of such money, *etc.*, as may come into his possession, as shall be advised by the Book Committee.

4. *Resolved*, That the agent shall annually announce to the several annual conferences, the amount of profits in the sale of books during the preceding year, and the dividends to which each annual conference is entitled.

Further action on the Book Concern being suspended, the following Resolutions were presented by Thomas O. Summers, and adopted by the Conference with a rising and unanimous vote :—

Whereas, this Conference is advised that certain materials for the Biography of the late Bishop McKendree are in the hands of our Senior Superintendent; and whereas, such a work is earnestly desired by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; therefore,

*Resolved*, That our venerable Senior Superintendent, Bishop Soule, is respectfully solicited by this General Conference, so to arrange with the other bishops the plan of Episcopal Visita-

tions, as to allow himself a sufficient respite from his ordinary duties for the preparation of the Life of Bishop McKendree.

*Resolved*, That Bishop Soule is respectfully requested to place the manuscript, when finished, in the hands of those who shall be appointed by this General Conference to manage the Book Business of the M. E. Church, South, to be published by them on such terms as they may deem proper, and as soon as practicable.

THOS. O. SUMMERS,

LEROY M. LEE.

*Petersburg, Va., May 22, 1846.*

The following Resolution was then presented and adopted :

*Resolved*, By the Delegates of the several Annual Conferences of the M. E. Church, South, in General Conference assembled, That any one of our bishops who may attend and preside at any of the regular sessions of the Holston Annual Conference within the next four years, may, at the request of that Conference, appoint an editor for the religious weekly paper published by them, if, in his judgment, it be expedient so to do : *Provided*, This General Conference shall be in no wise, and to no extent, committed to this paper as an official organ of the M. E. Church, South, or involved in its pecuniary liabilities.

S. PATTON,

W. A. SMITH.

The Conference then adjourned, with the benediction by the Bishop.

### *Friday Afternoon, May 22.*

Conference met according to adjournment, and opened with the usual services, conducted by J. C. Harrison. Bishop Andrew in the chair.

The Journals having been read and approved, the Conference proceeded to the election of the Missionary Secretary, E. W. Sehon having resigned that office.

On nomination, Edward Stevenson was elected.

The Conference then proceeded by ballot to appoint the place of its next session. On the second balloting, St. Louis was chosen as the place; and, on motion, May 1, 1850, was resolved on as the time. The places nominated were Nashville, Mobile, St. Louis, Cincinnati, and Petersburg. To the nomination of the last-mentioned place, the Conference responded by a rising and unanimous vote of thanks.

The Conference then took up the Report of the Committee on the Episcopacy relative to the support of the bishops. The substitute offered by the committee for said Report was first in order.

On motion of Dr. Winans, the first item being adopted, the second item was amended by striking out the words, "a Committee shall be appointed," and inserting the words, "the Committee on Episcopacy." The second item was then adopted. The third and fourth items were then withdrawn.

The Conference then took up the Report of the Select Committee of Nine, in relation to the subject of a Book Concern.

The substitute offered by Dr. Winans was in order.

Dr. Winans now presented, in connection with that matter, the following Resolutions, which were adopted, to wit :

1. *Resolved*, That the Editor of the Southern Christian Advocate be the Assistant Agent at Charleston ; the Editor of the Richmond Christian Advocate, the Assistant Agent at Richmond ; and the Missionary Secretary, the Assistant Agent at Louisville ; and that they be subject to the direction of the Agent in matters relating to the depositories.

2. *Resolved*, That the Book Agent shall not be allowed to invest any of the capital or proceeds of the Book Concern that may come into his hands before the General Conference of 1850, in real estate, or in stock, except books, further than may be necessary to carry on the offices of the different periodicals.

Conference now suspended the consideration of this subject, to take up the Report of the Committee on Finance, in reference to the appointment of Commissioners to negotiate with Commissioners of the M. E. Church, concerning our interest in the Book Concern. The Report was read and acted on, item by item. The first, second, third, and fourth items were adopted. The fifth item was laid on the table. The sixth and seventh items were adopted. It was resolved, that vacancies occurring in the agency or Board of Commissioners provided for in this Report, shall be filled by the remaining members of the Board, with the approbation of one or more of the bishops.

The Conference then proceeded to appoint, by ballot, the three Commissioners provided for in the Report.

On the first balloting, H. B. Bascom, A. L. P. Green, and S. A. Latta were elected to that office.

E. W. Sehon obtained leave of absence during the remainder of the session, and then Conference adjourned, with the benediction by the Bishop.

*Saturday Morning, May 23.*

Conference met at the stated hour. The usual devotions were conducted by Bishop Soule. Business proceeded under the direction of the Senior Superintendent.

The Journal was read and approved.

On motion of Dr. Smith,

*Resolved*, That all that part of the Report of the Committee on Literary Institutions which has not been adopted, be embodied in the Pastoral Address.

On motion of Thos. O. Summers,

*Resolved*, That the Committee on the Pastoral Address be favoured with an extension of time for the preparation of said document; and that, if it be not prepared before the adjournment of this Conference, they shall be empowered to publish it in the Church papers: Provided, the signatures of one or more of the bishops, and the Secretary of this Conference be affixed to the same.

2. That should the said committee need the Journal of this Conference for reference in preparing the Pastoral Address, the Secretary is instructed to place the Journals in their hands for that purpose.

3. That the Editors of the Advocates be instructed to publish as many extras, containing the Address, as may be deemed expedient by them, for gratuitous circulation.

The Conference then took up that part of the Report of the Committee on Boundaries, referring to the Eastern boundaries of the Virginia Conference. An amendment proposed by L. M. Lee, was withdrawn for the present.

Chauncey Richardson offered the following Resolution:—

*Resolved*, That the word “Western” be stricken from the name of the Western Texas Conference.—This motion prevailed.

On motion of H. H. Kavanaugh,

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Missionary Society of the M. E. Church, South, be directed to procure, at as early a day as practicable, an appropriate and neatly executed diploma or certificate of Life Membership for the parent Missionary Society of said Church; and that he be authorized to draw on the Treasurer of the Society for the cost of the same.

The Report of the Committee on Finance, referring to Periodicals, was then taken up, read, and acted upon, item by item.

The first item being read, Dr. G. F. Pierce offered an amendment, which he afterwards withdrew. The first item was then laid on the table.

The second and third items were then read and adopted.

The whole Report, as amended, was adopted, as follows:—

The Finance Committee submit their Fifth Report. We recommend the adoption of the following Resolutions in regard to the Periodicals and other property, submitted to their consideration, viz.:

1. *Resolved*, That the Book Agent of the M. E. Church, South, be, and the same is hereby required, to take charge of the books, notes, accounts, presses, &c. &c., of said Periodicals, and the Depository at Charleston, estimate the whole, and report the same to the next General Conference of the M. E. Church, South, and hold the same, subject to a division according to the Plan of Separation, whenever the M. E. Church shall divide with us the Book Concern, and our interest in the Chartered Fund, according to the Plan of Separation, adopted by the General Conference, in 1844.

2. *Resolved*, That by virtue of the organization of the M. E. Church, South, to which the editors of said papers have adhered, according to the *Plan of Separation* adopted by the General Conference of the M. E. Church, in 1844, their office as Editors of said papers is vacated.

W. A. SMITH, *Chairman*.

The following resolutions were then presented by J. E. Evans, read, and adopted by the Conference, viz.:

1. *Resolved*, That the Annual Conference, within whose bounds our Church papers may be located, shall appoint Publishing Committees, consisting of three members of their own

body, to superintend all matters pertaining to those papers, and report to the Annual Conferences, and also to the General Conference. The papers to be published at the former terms, viz., \$2.00 a year, in advance: \$2.50 if not paid in six months; and \$3.00 at the end of the year.

2. *Resolved*, That should a vacancy occur in the editorial department of any of the papers, the Annual Conference within whose bounds the paper shall be located, shall fill said vacancy, by and with the approbation of the presiding Bishop, or, in the interval of an Annual Conference, by the Publishing Committee.

3. *Resolved*, That the paper at Nashville shall be called the "Nashville Christian Advocate;" the one at Charleston, the "Southern Christian Advocate;" and the one at Richmond, the "Richmond Christian Advocate"—published by a Committee, for the M. E. Church, South."

4. *Resolved*, That for the papers at Nashville and Charleston, there shall be an Editor and an Assistant Editor, and an Editor for the one at Richmond, to be elected by this General Conference from among the travelling preachers, who shall be members of such Annual Conferences as they may select, with the approbation of the presiding Bishop; whose salaries shall be fixed by their respective Publishing Committees, and paid out of the proceeds of the papers.

Before these resolutions were adopted, W. Browning moved to amend the First Resolution, relative to *the terms of the papers*. The amendment was lost.

T. Crowder moved to amend the Fourth Resolution by striking out the "Assistant Editor of the Nashville Christian Advocate." This amendment was withdrawn. He also moved a similar amendment in reference to the "Southern Christian Advocate." This amendment was laid on the table.

On motion of Dr. Hamilton, the Conference proceeded to the election of the Book Agent, Editors, and Assistant Editors.

On the nomination of Dr. Smith, John Early was elected Book Agent—*nem. con.*

By separate action the Editors and Assistant Editors were then chosen.

On the first balloting, John B. McFerrin was elected Editor, and Moses M. Henkle, Assistant Editor of the Nashville Chris-

tian Advocate; William M. Wightman was elected Editor, and Thos. O. Summers, Assistant Editor of the Southern Christian Advocate; Leroy M. Lee was elected Editor of the Richmond Christian Advocate.

By a rising and unanimous vote, Dr. Bascom was elected Editor of the Quarterly Review.

By nomination and election, William A. Smith, Hubbard H. Kavanaugh, and Jefferson Hamilton were constituted the Book Committee.

The following Resolution was presented and lost:—

*Resolved*, That the Episcopacy be further strengthened by the election and ordination of another bishop.

W. WINANS,

A. L. P. GREEN.

The following Resolution was presented and lost:—

*Resolved*, That in the opinion of this General Conference, the controversy in the Church papers between the North and the South, has been sufficiently protracted, and that the Editors of the Church, South, be requested to allude to the subject as seldom as possible, and strictly to avoid all personalities, and to promote, as much as possible, peace between the two connections.

B. M. DRAKE,

F. E. PITTS.

It was then moved, that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at 4 o'clock this afternoon. This motion was carried.

The Report of the Committee on Finance, in reference to the appointment of Commissioners, being taken up, the blank in the Fourth Resolution, on motion of Dr. Smith, was filled with the name of John Early. The Report was then adopted, as follows, viz.:

The Finance Committee submit their Fourth Report, as follows:—

1. *Resolved*, By the Delegates of the several Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in General Conference assembled, That three Commissioners be appointed in accordance with the "Plan of Separation," adopted by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in 1844, to act in concert with the Commissioners appointed by the said

M. E. Church, to estimate the amount due to the South, according to the aforesaid Plan of Separation; and to adjust and settle all matters pertaining to the division of the Church property and funds, as provided for in the Plan of Separation, with full powers to carry into effect the whole arrangement with regard to said division.

2. *Resolved*, That the Commissioners of the South shall forthwith notify the Commissioners and Book Agents of the Methodist E. Church of their appointment, and of their readiness to adjust and settle the matters aforesaid; and should no such settlement be effected before the session of the General Conference of the M. E. Church, in 1848, said Commissioners shall have power and authority, for and in behalf of this Conference, to attend the General Conference of the M. E. Church, to settle and adjust all questions involving property or funds, which may be pending between the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

3. *Resolved*, That should the Commissioners appointed by this General Conference, after proper effort, fail to effect a settlement as above, then, and in that case, they shall be, and are hereby authorized, to take such measures as may best secure the just and equitable claims of the M. E. Church, South, to the property and funds aforesaid.

4. *Resolved*, That John Early be, and he is hereby authorized, to act as the agent or appointee of the M. E. Church, South, in conformity to the Plan of Separation, adopted by the General Conference of 1844, to receive, and hold in trust, for the use and benefit of the M. E. Church, South, all property and funds of every description which may be paid over to him by the agents of the M. E. Church.

5. *Resolved*, That the Commissioners appointed, and Book Agent, report to the next General Conference of the M. E. Church, South.

6. *Resolved*, That should a vacancy occur in the Board of Commissioners, or in the office of appointee, hereinbefore provided for, by death or otherwise, in the interim of the General Conference, then, and in that case, the remaining members of the Board shall have power to fill such vacancy, with the approbation of one or more of the Bishops.

W. A. SMITH, *Chairman*.



The Report of the Committee on Episcopacy, relating to the support of the Bishops, was then taken up, and adopted as a whole, to wit:—

The Committee on Episcopacy ask leave to present the following as their Report on the support of our Bishops:

1. That the Discipline, part second, section first, page 162, be amended by adding, after the word “orphans,” the words, “And their house-rent, fuel, and table expenses.”

2. That part second, section fourth, page 182, paragraph 7, be substituted by the following:—“At each session of the General Conference of the M. E. Church, South, the Committee on Episcopacy shall estimate the family expenses of the Bishops, and divide the whole amount of their claim of quarterage, travelling, and family expenses, among the several Annual Conferences, according to their pecuniary ability, to be raised by them in their Conference collections; and the aggregate claims of the Bishops shall be drawn from the funds of the said Annual Conferences, at their respective sessions.

The Conference then adjourned, with the benediction by the Bishop.

*Saturday Afternoon, May 23.*

Conference met, according to adjournment. Religious services were conducted by A. F. Driskell. Bishop Capers in the chair.

The Journal was read and approved.

On motion of John Early,

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the General Conference be presented to the ministers and members of the two Presbyterian churches, and of the Baptist churches, for the privilege of occupying their pulpits during the present session, and for their liberal spirit in so doing.

*Resolved*, That the grateful acknowledgements of the Conference be presented to the citizens of Petersburg, for the very kind and hospitable manner in which the members have been received and entertained among them.

Thomas H. Capers asked and obtained leave of absence.

On motion of F. Wilson,

*Resolved*, That we recommend to the Board of our Missionary Society, to consider the expediency of recognizing the widow and two orphan children of the late Littleton Fowler, Superintendent of Missions in Texas, as proper claimants on the funds at their disposal, to the amount usual for similar claimants on the Conferences, for the present, or until their support can be otherwise furnished.

Dr. Winans, from the Committee on Episcopacy, presented their Final Report, which was read, received, and adopted, as follows:—

The Committee on Episcopacy submit their Final Report:

*Resolved*, That there be appropriated, annually, to the Bishops, as follows, *viz* :

	<i>For Quarterage.</i>	<i>Travelling Expenses.</i>	<i>Table Expenses.</i>
To Bp. Soule,	\$200	\$125	\$675 = \$1000
“ Bp. Andrew,	264	125	811 = 1200
“ Bp. Capers,	288	125	787 = 1200
“ Bp. Paine,	232	125	643 = 1000
			<hr/> \$4400. <hr/>

And that the amount be apportioned among the several Annual Conferences as follows, *viz*.:

To the Kentucky Conference,	.	.	.	.	\$280
“ Louisville	“	.	.	.	250
“ Holston	“	.	.	.	170
“ Missouri	“	.	.	.	175
“ St. Louis	“	.	.	.	175
“ Mississippi	“	.	.	.	185
“ Louisiana	“	.	.	.	175
“ Tennessee	“	.	.	.	360
“ Virginia	“	.	.	.	365
“ North Carolina	“	.	.	.	200
“ Memphis	“	.	.	.	350
“ South Carolina	“	.	.	.	365
“ Florida	“	.	.	.	125

To the Alabama Conference,	.	.	.	.	.	\$365
“ Arkansas	“	.	.	.	.	60
“ East Texas	“	.	.	.	.	60
“ Texas	“	.	.	.	.	75
“ Georgia	“	.	.	.	.	365
“ Indian Mission	“	.	.	.	.	300
						<u>\$4400</u>

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. WINANS, *Chairman*.

On motion of J. Early,

*Resolved*, That, for the purpose of providing books for our people, it is important to make an immediate appeal to the members and friends of the M. E. Church, South, for the necessary funds; and that our preachers everywhere be requested to take up collections in the months of July and August next, and forthwith transmit them to William M. Wightman, of the S. C. Conference; L. Pierce, of the Georgia; P. P. Smith, of Florida; J. Hamilton, of Alabama; B. M. Drake, of Mississippi; J. B. McFerrin, of Tennessee; G. W. D. Harris, of Memphis; E. Stevenson, [for both the Louisville and Kentucky Conferences;] S. Patton, of Holston; A. Monroe, of Missouri; J. Boyle, of St. Louis; A. Hunter, of Arkansas; and Wm. R. Brown, of Alexandria, Louisiana Conference; who shall receive and make the best arrangements to transmit the funds to the Book Agent with as little loss as possible, and all collected in the North Carolina and Virginia Conferences shall be paid directly to the Agent.

On motion of J. B. McFerrin,

*Resolved*, That the Book Committee be authorized and instructed to estimate the table expenses of the General Book Agent, which, with his quarterage, shall be paid out of the proceeds of the Book Concern. The same committee shall estimate the table expenses of the Assistant Book Agent, at Louisville, and determine what portion of said expenses shall be paid out of the proceeds of the Book Concern, and what portion out of the funds of the Missionary Society.

On motion of F. E. Pitts,

*Resolved*, by a rising and unanimous vote, That Dr. Lovick Pierce be, and is hereby, delegated to visit the General Conference of the M. E. Church, to be held in Pittsburgh, May 1,

1848, to tender to that body the Christian regards and fraternal salutations of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. In case of the inability of Dr. Pierce to attend the session of the aforesaid Conference, the Bishops are respectfully requested to appoint a substitute.

On motion of L. M. Lee, the Report of the Committee on Boundaries was taken up. The 19th section was amended and adopted; and then the Report as a whole was adopted, and is as follows:—

The Committee on Boundaries beg leave to report, That they have had under consideration the application of all the Conferences that have asked to be divided, or to have any change in their boundary lines, and submit the following as the result of their deliberations:

1. Missouri Conference shall include all that part of the State of Missouri, North of the Missouri river.

2. St. Louis Conference shall include all that part of the State of Missouri, south of the Missouri river.

3. Indian Mission Conference, bounded as before.

4. Kentucky Conference shall include all that part of the State of Kentucky that lies north and east of a line beginning at the mouth of Harrod's creek, on the Ohio river; thence running south, on the northern line of the Middletown and Jeffersontown circuits, to the Bardstown Turnpike road; thence with said Turnpike to Bardstown; thence with the direct road to Springfield; thence to the town of Haysville and Liberty; thence due south to the Cumberland river; thence up said river to the Fork; thence up the South Fork to the Tennessee line, including in this conference, Mount Washington and Liberty, together with Soule Chapel in Cincinnati, Ohio, and all that part of the Kanawha District in Western Virginia, and such other societies on the northern border as have adhered, or may adhere, South, according to the Plan of Separation; except the town of Augusta, Ky., and any other society which has adhered, or may adhere, North, according to said Plan.

5. Louisville Conference shall include all that part of the State of Kentucky, not included in the Kentucky Conference, and in the Memphis Conference.

6. Holston Conference,—7. Tennessee,—8. Memphis,—9. Ar-

kansas,—10. Eastern Texas,—11. Texas conferences, bounded as before.

12. Mississippi Conference shall include all the State of Mississippi not included in the Memphis and Alabama Conferences, together with so much of the State of Louisiana north of Bayou Manshack, Amite river, lakes Marapas, Ponchartrain, and Bourne, except Baton Rouge.

13. Louisiana Conference shall include all the State of Louisiana, not included in the Mississippi Conference.

14. Alabama,—15. Georgia,—16. Florida conferences, bounded as before.

17. South Carolina Conference shall include the State of South Carolina, and so much of the State of North Carolina as is included in the Lincolnton, Cheraw, and Wilmington Districts.

18. North Carolina Conference, bounded as before.

19. Virginia Conference shall be bounded on the east by the Chesapeake bay, (except so much of the Eastern Shore of Virginia as is included in Eastville circuit,) and the Atlantic ocean; on the south by Albemarle sound, Roanoke and Staunton rivers; on the west by the Blue Ridge; on the north by the Rappahannock river, except Fredericksburg and Port Royal on the south, and including Westmoreland Circuit, on the north side of that river, within the Virginia Conference.

H. H. KAVANAUGH, *Chairman*.

The Bishop then announced the Committee on the Hymn Book, as follows:—Thos. O. Summers, W. M. Wightman, J. Hamilton, Whitefoord Smith, and A. B. Longstreet.

On motion of Geo. F. Pierce, Dr. Bascom and T. N. Ralston be a committee to prepare, and place in the hands of the General Book Agent, for publication, the new edition of the Discipline.

The Report of the Select Committee of Nine was then taken up, reconsidered, and laid on the table.

On motion of John Early, the Bishops were respectfully requested to prepare an Address on behalf of this Conference, to be presented by Dr. Pierce to the General Conference of the M. E. Church, at his visit to that body, in May, 1848.

The Journals were then read and approved.

A motion to adjourn having prevailed, Bishop Capers was called to the chair, and led the Conference in singing that excellent parting Hymn of Mr. Wesley's, beginning,

"Jesus, accept the praise,"

and in a most appropriate and feeling address to the throne of grace.

After singing another Hymn, the Conference was addressed in a very touching manner by the Rev. Wm. Burke, who took an affectionate leave of his brethren in the ministry: most, if not all of them were his juniors, he having been for fifty-five years engaged in the sacred office.

The benediction was then solemnly pronounced by the venerable Senior Superintendent, Bishop Soule.

Thus closed the first session of the General Conference of the M. E. Church, South. The second session is to commence on May 1, 1850, in the city of St. Louis.

THOMAS N. RALSTON, *Sec.*

THOMAS O. SUMMERS, *Ass. Sec.*

JOSHUA SOULE,

JAMES O. ANDREW,

W. CAPERS,

ROBERT PAINE.

*Petersburg, Va., May 23, 1846.*

## PASTORAL ADDRESS

OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1846, TO THE MINISTERS AND MEMBERS OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH.

THE First General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, having met to deliberate for the common good of the church, the Delegates of the several Annual Conferences composing that body, regarding it as due to the ministry and membership that the opinions and wishes of the Conference on a variety of topics, more or less connected with its official proceedings, and the interests of the church at large, should be better understood than they are likely to be by means of the ordinary reports of General Conference action, determined upon a special Address, as the best method of giving the necessary information, and also of presenting to the notice of the church, such facts and considerations as more especially claim their attention at the present time.

And, 1st. Before proceeding to the more immediate objects of a Pastoral Address, it may be proper that we furnish a brief historical statement of facts connected with the recent organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and of the reasons and causes which led to it—reasons and causes which, in the judgment of the annual conferences in the slave-holding States, rendered it both proper and necessary. It is well known to all in any way conversant with the history of Methodism in the United States, that the legislation of the M. E. Church, on the subject of slavery, as it exists under sanction of the constitution and laws of some fourteen States of the National Confederacy, and the guaranty of the constitution and laws of the United States, has been a fruitful source of controversy and disunion, ever since the first attempt of the church, now sixty years ago, so to meddle with the civil relation of master and slave, as to subject it to the capricious determinations of Ecclesiastical rule and church Discipline—both, of necessity, changing with the fluctuations of opinion and prejudice. Such attempts, on the part of the church, had always been resisted in the slave-holding States, as unwarranted in principle, and mischievous in tendency. By so far, however, and as long, as the church was con-

tent simply to declare its conviction of the evil of slavery, and regulate its abuses in the instance of church members, without bringing its interference in direct conflict with the laws of the land, the Southern portion of the church was disposed to submit, without murmur or remonstrance. And as the legislation of the church respecting slavery, after 1784, was uniformly accompanied by the express avowal, that the law of the church was in no instance to come in conflict with the provisions and purposes of the laws and polity of the slave-holding States, Southern Methodists were enabled so far to conciliate public opinion, and quiet popular apprehension, as to carry on, notwithstanding occasional difficulty and detriment, the ordinary operations of church enterprise and discipline. More recently too, say from 1836 to 1844, the former inquietude and alarm of the South had been greatly lessened, by the solemn and explicit assurances of two successive General Conferences, after the most mature and ample discussion, officially declaring that the church would never be found "requiring emancipation in contravention of civil authority, or where the laws of the States would not allow the liberated slave to enjoy freedom." That "while the church has encouraged emancipation in those States where laws permit it, and allowed the freedman to enjoy freedom, they have refrained for conscience' sake, from all intermeddling with the subject in those States where the laws make it criminal:" that as "emancipation in those States where it is not practicable so as to secure the enjoyment of liberty to the freed slave, is not a requirement of Discipline, it cannot be made a condition of eligibility to office;" and, finally, that "no Ecclesiastical disabilities are intended to ensue, either to the ministers or members of the church, in those States where the civil authority forbids emancipation." These and many other equally strong and unambiguous declarations of General Conference, emanating from the collective wisdom and highest authority of the church, were regarded by the South as well nigh removing all cause of alarm.

But when, in 1844, in utter disregard of these high pledges, the General Conference, in the cases of Harding and Andrew, proceeded to acts and decisions; and officially avowed principles, and sanctioned a policy, directly subversive of the law of the church, and invincibly inconsistent with its own exposition of the law, as given by two different General Conferences, and



authoritatively published to the church and the world—the representatives of all the Annual Conferences in the slave-holding States (Baltimore excepted) having solemnly protested against the action of the General Conference in question, without any hopeful result, regarded themselves, unanimously, as shut up to the necessity of declaring that they could not submit to such a state of things without defeating the great ends of their ministry, and the objects of church organization in the South; and a formal declaration, to this effect, was made accordingly. Upon the basis of this declaration, the General Conference proceeded to authorize, by the adoption of the well-known *Plan of Separation*, a separate ecclesiastical connection, with a separate General Conference jurisdiction in the slave-holding States, should the Annual Conferences in those States “find it necessary;” to which connection, all ministers of the church, of whatever grade, might attach themselves, and “conferences, stations, and societies, bordering on the line of division,” are permitted to “adhere,” should they so elect, “without blame” or censure. Pursuant to this provisional grant by the General Conference, and in order to ascertain the prevalent state of conviction and feeling in the South, on the subject of a separate Southern Organization, the Representatives of the South, as above, united in calling a *Convention* of Delegates from the sixteen annual conferences whose interests were likely to be so injuriously, if not disastrously affected by the action of the General Conference. The General Conference had confided the right of decision to “the annual conferences in the slave-holding States” as the sole judges of the necessity of a separate General Conference jurisdiction, South. The Southern Delegations, however, resolved to consult the *People* before exercising the right conferred by the General Conference. A year was allowed for deliberation. Meanwhile the subject was fully discussed, and came up for judgment and action, not only in all the annual conferences, but also in nearly all the quarterly conferences, and other official bodies, representing distinct and entire charges, besides primary meetings of the people almost innumerable, throughout every division of the South. And the result was, the ministry and membership of the whole church, in the slave-holding States, in the proportion of at least ninety-five in the hundred, decided in favour of separation, as essential to the success of Methodism

in those States. In accordance with the original call, the annual conferences, by their delegates, in the ratio of one for every eleven of their members, met in *Convention*, in the city of Louisville, Ky., 1st of May, 1845. The Convention, as is known to all, after the most mature deliberation, and acting under the provisional grant of authority from the General Conference of 1844, as found in the Plan of Separation, resolved upon dissolving jurisdictional connection with the Northern division of the church, as such connection and jurisdiction had been asserted and maintained by means of a single General Conference, upon the basis of the Discipline of the church, as it then existed, without alteration or addition, except in and so far as indispensable to adapt it to a separate organization, and erected the sixteen (now nineteen) annual conferences, represented in the Convention, into a distinct ecclesiastical connection, under the name and style of the M. E. Church, South. It was a part of the organization of the Convention, that the first General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, should be held at Petersburg, Va., 1st of May, 1846. This body met, and held its session according to appointment, and, by its acts and deliberations, completed and prepared for carrying into effect, the fundamental organic arrangements of the Convention, toward the more perfect and formal organization of the church. That organization, essentially the work of the Convention, but requiring General Conference action to give effect to its provisions, may now be regarded as complete. Such, briefly, are the facts out of which grow our new and peculiar relations as a distinct ecclesiastical connection. And having furnished you with this brief matter-of-fact review of events in the recent part of our history as a church, we proceed to ask your attention to objects and interests more immediately within the range of this address.

Placed, as we now are, under a separate General Conference jurisdiction, and our organization as a separate connection being complete, the time has fully arrived when we should in earnest address ourselves to the task of enlarging the borders, and building up the waste places of the extended field of Pastoral Charge, providentially committed to our trust. In the great struggle of opposing convictions and interests, which has given birth to the arrangement and results we have just detailed, separating

the church of our common choice and affections into two distinct and independent connections, we have endeavoured, as far as practicable, to cherish and cultivate the spirit and temper of good will and forbearance toward the Northern division of the church; and it is believed the exceptions to the rule, where portions of the Church, South, may have failed to do so, apply only to individuals and small sections of the Church, North, and may perhaps, be but too readily accounted for in view of their unkind and proscriptive course and bearing in relation to the Church, South. All evils of this kind, whether North or South, we sincerely deplore. We confidently regard the two great bodies, however, taking the aggregate of their numbers, intelligence, and piety, as one in principle and feeling, united in the great vocation of diffusing the knowledge and love of God among men. Between the two connections, in doctrine, discipline, and ritual, the identity is complete. True Christian unity—the oneness in question—can only connect, under any circumstances of association, with the principles and virtues constituting us Christians—“the obedience of faith,” uniting us to the Great Head of the church; and without this, church relations and ritual uniformity, of merely human origin and conventional consecration, can never constitute us one in Christ.

It has always been a distinguishing virtue of the Wesleyan creed, as an exposition of Christianity, that Christian character, in its proper elements and distinctives, has no necessary connection with the mere formula and symbolism of church organization. On these, and all other grounds known to the Methodism of our fathers, we believe no branch of the Wesleyan family has a fairer title to the character of consistent primitive Methodists, than that to which we belong. The new organization in which we find ourselves re-embodied and united, and with a unanimity as unexpected and surprising to ourselves as it can be to others, was originally authorized, and is now accredited, by the direct provision and approval of the General Conference of the whole church, in 1844, as shown in the Plan of Separation adopted by that body. The changes in the Discipline, if such they can be called, are as few and unimportant as the fact and circumstance of a separate ecclesiastical jurisdiction would permit. No recognized principle of the Methodism of our fathers has been in any way affected by these changes. All the doctrines, du-

ties, and usages—the entire creed and ritual of the church before the separation, remain without change of any kind. When the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized, in 1784, the changes and departures from the existing Wesleyan model, in Great Britain, were, beyond comparison, more numerous and vital than any we have found necessary to adapt the Discipline to the separate ecclesiastical establishment into which the General Conference, of '44, authorized us to erect ourselves. The establishment of a separate Methodist Church in Canada, by the General Conference of 1828, involved changes greatly more material than any we have adopted. There will be found in the organic structure of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, distinguishing it from the common body to which lately we all belonged, less distinctive features of difference than those which distinguish the Irish from the English Conference, in the same Wesleyan connection. And when we reflect, that during no period of its history, has Methodism been the result of pre-existing plans and arrangements, but always and everywhere a system of moral agency, within the limits of Scripture authority and precedent, adapting itself, in mere matters of form and modes of operation, to the suggestive force of circumstances, and the exigence of the times, it is indeed matter, not less of gratitude than surprise, that God, in the gracious, and we believe special, providence extended to us, has strangely withheld us from the necessity of greater changes; for they have been fewer in number, and less important than those of any General Conference since 1792. All voluntary associations of men must, in greater or less degree, conform to the direction, and to some extent at least, fluctuate with the changes and revolutions of society, in whose midst they are found. This truth applies to church associations as well as all others, and especially to every thing of merely human origin in their structure and administration. Any assumption, therefore, of immutability, in this respect, by how far it is not a mere fiction, must always be received as evidence of something worse. The history of the church from even apostolic times, is full of examples to this effect; and the Bible, itself, furnishes us with illustrations of the truth we suggest; and any attempt to fix the charge of grave, moral defection in view of such change and adjustment, can only be received as proof of perverse passion and misjudging prejudice, on the part of

those who may be engaged in it. The changes connected with the independence of the Southern division of the Methodist Episcopal Church, are a mere exemplification of this admirable power of adjustment and adaptation, belonging to every great moral, as well as physical, agency embarked in the improvement and elevation of our common nature, as found under the modifying influence of different circumstances as to external position. In our new position as a church, peculiar duties and responsibilities devolve upon us, and we would conjure you not to forget, that in this respect, recent events have thrown around the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, a shade of higher and more fearful interest, than has ever before, perhaps, marked any portion of the history of Methodism, in this or any other country. A deep and fearful responsibility has shut up and consecrated us, not merely to the common duty of evangelizing the world, but to the performance of a peculiar work—a work as difficult as it is momentous, in connection with the moral and religious wants of millions of the children of Africa, found in our midst, and entrusted to our care. In this respect, a great and effectual door is open before us, and there are many adversaries, and but too many, it is to be feared, of our own household. To this great work we stand solemnly pledged as a church, and we cannot neglect it, without guilt and shame—without hopeless apostasy from all the high purposes giving us our new position as a people.

Some have thought, that the unaltered law of the Discipline, on the subject of slavery, would be found in conflict with the new position we have assigned the Church, South, and were exceedingly anxious to expunge or qualify the law; and this will doubtless be urged by others as evidence of defection from the purity of former times. As it can be shown, however, that the number opposed to the law or rule, in the late General Conference of the Church, South, was not as great as had been found in any and *every* General Conference for the last half century, the objection is without force or application. The truth is, in all the fourteen General Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, there has never been as large a majority satisfied with the section of the Discipline on slavery, as in the late General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

This law, as authoritatively expounded by the General Con-

ferences of 1836 and 1840, presents no barrier to the accomplishment of the great objects at which we aim, in relation to the slave population of the South. We re-avow, as our own, the declaration of the General Conference of 1836—"We wholly disclaim any right, wish, or intention to interfere in the civil or political relation of master and slave, as it exists in the slave-holding States of this Union." We agree with that body now, as we did then, in further declaring, that the subject of slavery in this country, is "put beyond the power of legislation by the General Government, as well as the control of ecclesiastical bodies." We deem it sufficient, to re-affirm, with them, that "the only safe, scriptural, and prudent way for us, both as ministers and people, is wholly to abstain from this agitating subject." We are well content merely to repeat the full and explicit declaration of the General Conference of 1840, "That the simple holding of slaves, or mere ownership of slave property, in States or Territories where the laws do not admit of emancipation, and permit the liberated slave to enjoy freedom, constitutes no legal barrier to the election or ordination of ministers, to the various grades of office known in the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and cannot, therefore, be considered as operating any forfeiture of right, in view of such election and ordination."

The broad and explicit disavowal of the Methodist Episcopal Church of any right, wish, or intention to interfere, in any way, with the relation of master and slave, as it exists in the slave-holding States of the Union—the declared judgment of the church, that the question of slavery in the United States is placed beyond the control of ecclesiastical bodies; that it is unsafe, unscriptural, and imprudent, to agitate the subject; and that the mere ownership of slave property, where the laws do not admit of emancipation and permit the liberated slave to enjoy freedom, constitutes no barrier to the election and ordination of ministers, to any of the various grades of office (Bishop, Elder, Deacon,) known in the ministry of the church;—these high official decisions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, sufficiently explain and qualify the meaning and application of the section on slavery, and entirely supersede the necessity of any action on the subject, by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

We glance at these facts, not so much to satisfy you, as to show to others—to all sufficiently interested to examine the sub-

ject, that instead of any, the least departure from the law of the church respecting slavery, we have strictly adhered to it, throughout the whole struggle, and have been abused and denounced only because we would not submit to its violation by the Northern division of the church. Nor in the instance of this charge only, would we repel the imputation of defection from the Methodism of our fathers. We regard ourselves as defamed, in every instance in which the charge has been made. We do not claim to be better, more devoted, more worthy of imitation as Christians, than our brethren of the North; but in every thing essential, every thing peculiar to Methodism, we believe the impartial evidence of history will be, that we have been not only equally, but, in fact, even *uniquely* loyal and true to the duties and hopes of our end and calling, as American Wesleyan Methodists.

We greatly fear, that as the church has become enlarged, and its influence extended in the progress of years, we have been imperceptibly led to attach too much importance to mere matters of form and ecclesiastical arrangement, forgetting the ruling principle of the true Wesleyan school, that Methodism, without defection from the high principles of its origin, can never be brought into bondage to forms: that the piety of a church should never be confounded with its polity: that its religion, and the life and character of its ministers and members, cannot be separated: that without personal piety on the part of those composing it, the religion of a church is a lifeless corpse of mere form and order. True piety implies something known, something felt, and something done, and is in no sense predicable of a church, except as its members personally know the truth of the gospel, feel its influence, and practise its virtues. We ask you, then, to abjure the unchristian arrogance which, overlooking the weightier interests of truth and piety, would make all religion to connect with mere ecclesiastical formula. Let no such abuse of your profession be chargeable upon any; but rather let the religion found in the Bible be that taught in your pulpits, and exemplified in your lives. The church should never encumber and enslave itself with rites, forms, ceremonies, or assumptions unknown in the word of God, and, by consequence, in no way necessary to Christian character or the salvation of men. Let us never substitute rites and symbols for the grace of which, at best, they can be only suggestive. How much rather should we

turn to things of the first—of supreme importance—the great foundation principles of our profession ; cultivating, at all times, a sense of dependence upon God, and the Spirit of his grace, and “manifesting in every place the savour of the knowledge of Christ.” In this view of the subject, the Ministry and Membership of the church are equally interested. The former should be alike “the messengers of the churches and the glory of Christ.” Their one vocation should be the recovery of the lost, and the building up of the virtuous and good. We can only expect the church to be joyful and prosperous in the proportion its ministers are “clothed with salvation.” The success of Methodism, under God, has always depended upon the living authority and impassioned vitality of its ministry, constantly aiming at the good of the world and the glory of God. On these topics we might, but must not enlarge, and will only add, that without a devoted people, and self-sacrificing ministry, we must, of necessity, lose our character and standing as a branch of the great Wesleyan family. In this connection, and in view of the objects we are recommending, permit us to urge upon your notice the great, the supreme importance of promoting the love and study of the Holy Scriptures, both among yourselves and all with whom you may be in intercourse, or may in any way have influence. Amid all the wants of the understanding and the heart—amid all the trials of time and earth, we may turn to the treasured fulness of the Bible without disappointment, and find ourselves constantly cheered by its truths and its precepts, as the true beacon lights—the only watchfires safely guiding us amid the wilderness of life. In the momentous concern of personal acceptance with God, we dare not mingle what is merely human with what we know to be divine ; and the conscience of the Church should bow only to the precepts and prohibitions—the principles and motives of the Gospel, as found in the word of God.

Our Missionary plans and operations will claim more than the usual share of your attention, as our field of labour, in this respect, is greatly enlarged, without an adequate extension of the means to meet the demands of Missionary enterprise. The very prompt and generous manner, however, in which the wants of the church were met and supplied during the last year, inspires us with the confident expectation, that in all time to come, you



will, with great promptitude and liberality, furnish the necessary supplies for all our numerous important missions, both existing and projected—at home and abroad. We see about us, everywhere, a preparation of events favourable to the extension of the Gospel; and it behoves us so to enlarge our field of action, and extend our labour of love, as to show our Christian care over every mass of population whose wants and condition may urge us to active exertion in their behalf.

The Sabbath-school interest in the church must not be overlooked, as a part of the great system of moral agency with which we have been intrusted for the benefit of mankind. This institution ranks high among the means destined to bless the young, the children of the flock, of whose immortality we are constituted the guardians. So extensively efficacious is this institution in every moral aspect, that it may, in modern times and Protestant Christendom, be regarded as the great vestibule of the living Temple of the church upon earth, and should be sustained and cherished, by all the means and ministries within our power.

We rejoice to perceive, that, to a very hopeful extent, the subject of Education is attracting attention within the limits of the Southern Organization. Hitherto, the South has been unjust to itself with regard to its Literature. We have invited the world to believe that we are incapable of sustaining literary institutions. We have, to a great extent, conceded to others the right of instructing those intrusted to our care. We have allowed others to drive a trade in performing a high moral task, with the performance of which we are ourselves charged by every consideration of duty and interest. And now, especially, as causes beyond our control seem to distinguish us, in many important particulars, from other portions of our common country; as the providence of God and the destiny of circumstances have thrown around us ties and relations, giving birth to trusts and duties more or less peculiar to our position, does it not plainly indicate the necessity of seeking to become less dependent upon others for the lights of knowledge, and the aids of virtue, as found in the department of education? And accordingly we ask, that all our literary institutions may, in proportion to their claims and merits, be cherished alike, with proper comity of feeling and fraternal regard, on the part of ministry and people. Let the claims of all our Colleges and

Seminaries be only appreciated. The interest is a common one throughout our borders, and failure at one point must affect the health and vigour of action at every other. It would afford us pride and pleasure to call attention, in other than general terms, to all the various seminaries and schools under our care and patronage—some forty in number, besides our strictly collegiate establishments—but our limits forbid more than a brief glance at the latter. La Grange College, in Alabama, and Randolph Macon, in Virginia, among the older of our colleges, are entitled to high consideration, and are deservedly attracting the notice of the friends of sound learning. Emory College, of Georgia, and Emory and Henry, of Western Virginia, promise extensive usefulness, and are well worthy the confidence of the church. Centenary College, of Louisiana, bids fair to occupy a commanding position among the colleges of the South; and St. Charles, of Missouri, is nobly struggling to overcome obstacles in the way of its success. The Wesleyan and Rutgersville Colleges, of Texas, are making a hopeful commencement, and, it is believed, may be rendered extensively useful. The Literary department of Transylvania University, the oldest academic foundation in the great Ohio and Mississippi basin, with all its endowments and facilities, was, at the late General Conference, placed, by contract, under the control and management of the M. E. Church, South, and, as the contract stipulated, the different members of the present Faculty are, and during the existence of the contract must continue to be, nominees of the General Conference; and on this account, as well as from the fact that they have been selected from different sections of the South, we may reasonably presume, that this venerable seat of learning will receive the countenance and support of the church at large, and become an efficient auxiliary in advancing its interests, in connection with the more general objects of letters and science.

The practice, gradually introduced during the last twenty years, of annually appointing a large number of travelling ministers to the literary institutions of the church, has, for some time past, been regarded as an evil requiring correction. It is believed that too many able and effective men have been, in this way, lost to the church as travelling preachers—in fact, without reason or necessity; as, in most instances, the literary labour they have been called upon to perform, could have been as

well performed by laymen or local preachers, without depriving the Church of so many valuable travelling ministers.

It was the manifest purpose of the late General Conference to apply this principle of action, and put a stop to the prevalent practice of making membership in the travelling ministry a mere passport to various appointments other than those of the pastoral character. The opinion was general, that the welfare of the church has been deeply injured by the multiplicity of such appointments, and it was thought the time had arrived to arrest the evil as far as practicable.

In order to cherish and maintain the spirit and forms, the vigour and purity, of the early and prosperous days of American Methodism, we affectionately, but urgently, recommend, that you resist and discourage all innovations upon the simple ritual with which we commenced our career as a people. And we would urge this admonition, especially, in view of the growing inclination, manifested in some portions of the church, to introduce the Pew System in our houses of worship, rather than the Free-Seat System of our fathers: also Instrumental Music, contrary to primitive usage; and the much more prevalent practice of having the *singing* in our churches conducted by *Choirs*, not merely as *leading* in this interesting part of public worship, but to the *exclusion* of the congregation entirely. On these topics we would commend to your notice the language of the Discipline, and respectfully ask you not to depart from it, unless under the force of circumstances manifestly forming exceptions to the application of the general rule. We need scarcely remind you, that, owing to the unsettled state of the Property Question between the North and the South, the General Conference took no final action on the subject of establishing a Southern Book Concern. It is hoped, however, that the arrangements made by the Conference, such as the appointment of Book Agent, establishment of Depositories, &c., preliminary to the more formal establishment of a regular Book Concern, will prove satisfactory to the church, and receive its approval and support, as the best that could be done under the circumstances.

May we not hope, that the severe trial through which the Church, South, has been passing for the last two years, will, under Divine direction, prepare us for greater watchfulness and circumspection; and, from the frequent and extensive revivals

within our limits, and the steady increase of our numbers, both as it regards the ministry and membership, and other similar indications, may we not confidently trust, that the Great Head of the church, and his indwelling Spirit, are still with us, as in former epochs of our history? In all this, let us recognize the hand of God, and the goodness he has shown us, and be humble. In adversity, let us learn the moral uses of depression and chastisement. In prosperity, let us not forget, that all our planting and watering can avail nothing, except as "God shall give the increase," by continuing to bless and prosper the work of our hands. Unnecessary as it may be thought to be, we cannot close this address without reminding you of the great importance of maintaining the dignity and purity of the Christian Profession in your families. To do this, it is not sufficient that the usual forms of devotion be kept up in the family. This, in itself, furnishes no evidence of piety. Family religion, as taught by Doddridge and Wesley, and inculcated among us as a people since our earliest organization, means much more. The proper regulation of temper and conduct, the influence and manifestation of all the domestic and social virtues, attention to the wants, the cares, and anxieties of the domestic circle, the cultivation of knowledge and virtue, and all the means and elements of good character and moral and religious improvement, as it regards parents, children, and dependents, must be taken into the account, and be duly attended to. Order, government, affection, fidelity, are all, and at all times, important, and much contribute to the result of a well-regulated, right-ordered family. And in the instance of all ministers and members of the M. E. Church, South, who may be the owners of slaves, while we would urge the apostolic injunction of obedience and fidelity on the part of slaves, we would earnestly remind them of the inspired corresponding injunction, that they should "give to their servants that which is just and equal," extending to them kind treatment—adequately supplying their current physical wants, and by all means providing for them all necessary moral and religious instruction, in view of their present and eternal welfare. In addition to the high moral duties, and solemn religious trusts to which we have adverted in this Address, the financial responsibilities of the church, in our present position, must not be overlooked. These are so many and weighty, that it will require more than ordinary

effort and liberality to enable us to accomplish the objects to which, as a church, we stand committed. Among our means of doing good in this respect, we shall naturally and anxiously look for a liberal extension of patronage and support in relation to our church Papers and Periodicals.

Finally, indulge us in a few brief suggestions, and we have done. With regard to the great mass of our brethren of the M. E. Church, comparatively few being excepted, may we not reasonably hope, that at no distant day it may be said of them and us, in the language of Charles Wesley, "and friends at first, are friends again at last?" Let us at least seek to bring about such a result; and, if disappointed, let us bear it as we should. "Thou shalt see and flow together," may be addressed to us, as to the ancient church. When, like Barnabas, we "see the grace of God" in others, let it be sufficient. As taught by our Founder, let us know Methodism only as "the work of God." After all, personal piety is the one great interest that should engross us. Always important, beyond all power of thought, let it be with us the "one thing needful," that, elevated, by its aims and purposes, above all other interests, we may exemplify in our own conduct, and exhibit to others, "the doctrine of God our Saviour," in all its truth and beauty. Let the great stewardship of the ministry, together with the duties and privileges of the membership, all tend to this. Let us never forget our true original vocation, as a people, "to spread Scriptural holiness" over every land in which we may be found. For this purpose, Providence has given us a high religious consecration, with historical hopes and expectations, imposing upon us a most fearful responsibility as to the future.

And now, brethren, we commend you to God and the word of his grace, in the hope, that when you, with all the redeemed of earth, are permitted to be with the Head of the Church, and see his glory, we shall still be with you.—Affectionately,

JOSHUA SOULE, *President.*

T. N. RALSTON, *Secretary.*

## DELEGATES ELECT

TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, 1850.

KENTUCKY CONFERENCE.—H. B. Bascom, B. T. Crouch, H. H. Kavanaugh, T. N. Ralston, W. H. Anderson, J. C. Harrison, G. W. Brush. *Reserves*: S. A. Latta, W. D. Trainer.—7

LOUISVILLE CONF.—E. W. Schon, A. H. Redford, T. Mad-din, E. Stevenson. *Reserves*: G. W. Taylor, T. Bottomly.—4

MISSOURI CONF.—J. Lanius, W. Patton, W. W. Redman, [deceased,] A. Monroe. *Reserves*: W. G. Caples, E. M. Mar-ven.—4

ST. LOUIS CONF.—B. R. Johnson, J. Boyle, J. K. Lacy, T. H. Capers. *Reserves*: T. T. Ashley, J. Mitchell.—4

TENNESSEE CONF.—J. B. McFerrin, F. E. Pitts, T. W. Ran-dle, A. L. P. Green, M. M. Henkle, J. W. Hanner, E. Wads-worth, J. F. Hughes, G. W. Martin, W. D. F. Sawrie. *Re-serves*: A. F. Driskell, S. S. Moody.—10

HOLSTON CONF.—S. Patton, C. Collins, J. Atkins, C. D. Smith, W. Hicks, W. H. Rogers. *Reserves*: R. M. Stevens, T. Stringfield.—6

MEMPHIS CONF.—G. W. D. Harris, M. J. Blackwell, T. L. Boswell, W. McMahon, W. M. McFerrin, M. Brock, D. J. Al-len. *Reserves*: S. J. Henderson, F. W. McFarland.—7

MISSISSIPPI CONF.—W. Winans, B. M. Drake, L. Campbell, G. M. Rogers, J. Lane. *Reserves*: W. H. Watkins, D. M. Wiggins.—5

LOUISIANA CONF.—W. E. Doty, S. W. Speer, R. Randle, J. N. Hamill. *Reserves*: J. Powell, R. Deering.—4

VIRGINIA CONF.—J. Early, W. A. Smith, T. Crowder, L. M. Lee, D. S. Doggett, A. Dibrell, J. H. Davis, G. W. Lang-horne. *Reserves*: L. Rosser, J. E. Edwards.—8

NORTH CAROLINA CONF.—W. Closs, C. F. Deems, R. I. Car-son, P. Doub, H. G. Leigh, D. B. Nicholson. *Reserves*: W. Carter, S. D. Bumpass.—6

GEORGIA CONF.—W. J. Parks, S. Anthony, J. E. Evans, I. Boring, J. W. Glenn, G. F. Pierce, L. Pierce, W. H. Ellison, R. Reneau. *Reserves*: J. Lewis, G. J. Pearce.—9

SOUTH CAROLINA CONF.—W. M. Wightman, H. A. C. Walker, A. M. Shipp, W. A. Gamewell, J. Stacy, W. Smith, C. Betts, N. Talley, S. W. Capers. *Reserves*: R. J. Boyd, H. Spain.—9

ALABAMA CONF.—T. O. Summers, W. Murrah, J. Hamilton, A. H. Mitchell, T. W. Dorman, E. Callaway, G. Garrett, J. T. Heard. *Reserves*: E. Hearn, G. Shaeffer.—8

FLORIDA CONF.—P. P. Smith, E. L. T. Blake, S. P. Richardson. *Reserve*: W. W. Griffin.—3

ARKANSAS CONF.—W. P. Ratcliffe, J. F. Truslow, A. Hunter, W. Moores. *Reserves*: J. Harrell, C. P. Turrentine.—4

INDIAN MISSION CONF.—W. L. McAllister, N. W. Talbot. *Reserve*: T. B. Ruble.—2

TEXAS CONF.—R. Alexander, C. Richardson. *Reserve*: J. W. Whipple.—2

EAST TEXAS CONF.—R. Crawford, W. C. Lewis. *Reserve*: S. A. Williams.—2

Total, 104.

---

JOURNAL  
OF THE  
General Conference  
OF THE  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH.  
MAY, 1850.

---





# MEMBERS

OF THE

## Second General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

- 
1. KENTUCKY CONFERENCE:—Henry B. Bascom, B. T. Crouch, H. H. Kavanaugh, T. N. Ralston, W. H. Anderson, J. C. Harrison, G. W. Brush.—*N. B. S. A. Latta, Reserve*, substituted H. H. Kavanaugh one part, and G. W. Brush another part of the session. . . . . 7
  2. LOUISVILLE CONF.—E. W. Schon, A. H. Redford, T. Maddin, E. Stevenson. . . . . 4
  3. MISSOURI CONF.—J. Lanius, W. Patton, A. Monroe, W. G. Caples. . . . . 4
  4. ST. LOUIS CONF.—B. R. Johnson, J. Boyle, J. K. Lacey, T. H. Capers. . . . . 4
  5. TENNESSEE CONF.—J. B. McFerrin, F. E. Pitts, T. W. Randle, A. L. P. Green, M. M. Henkle, J. W. Hanner, E. Wadsworth, J. F. Hughes, G. W. Martin, W. D. F. Sawrie. . . 10
  6. HOLSTON CONF.—S. Patton, C. Collins, J. Atkins, C. D. Smith, W. Hicks, W. H. Rogers. . . . . 6
  7. MEMPHIS CONF.—G. W. D. Harris, M. J. Blackwell, T. L. Boswell, W. McMahon, W. M. McFerrin, M. Brock, D. J. Allen. . . . . 7
  8. MISSISSIPPI CONF.—W. Winans, B. M. Drake, L. Campbell, G. M. Rogers, J. Lane. . . . . 5
  9. LOUISIANA CONF.—W. E. Doty, S. W. Speer, R. Randle, J. N. Hamill. . . . . 4
  10. VIRGINIA CONF.—J. Early, W. A. Smith, T. Crowder, L. M. Lee, D. S. Doggett, A. Dibrell, J. H. Davis, L. Rosser. . . 8
  11. NORTH CAROLINA CONF.—W. Closs, C. F. Deems, P. Doub, H. G. Leigh, D. B. Nicholson. . . . . 5

12. GEORGIA CONF.—S. Anthony, J. E. Evans, Isaac Boring, J. W. Glenn, G. F. Pierce, L. Pierce, R. Reneau.—*N. B. I.* Boring died during the session. . . . . 7
13. SOUTH CAROLINA CONF.—W. M. Wightman, H. A. C. Walker, A. M. Shipp, J. Stacy, W. A. Gamewell, C. Betts, N. Talley, S. W. Capers, R. J. Boyd. . . . . 9
14. ALABAMA CONF.—T. O. Summers, W. Murrah, J. Hamilton, A. H. Mitchell, T. W. Dorman, E. Calloway, G. Garrett, J. T. Heard. . . . . 8
15. FLORIDA CONF.—P. P. Smith, E. L. T. Blake, S. P. Richardson. . . . . 3
16. ARKANSAS CONF.—W. P. Ratcliffe, J. F. Truslow, A. Hunter, W. Moores. . . . . 4
17. INDIAN MISSION CONF.—W. L. McAlister, N. W. Talbot. . . . . 2
18. TEXAS CONF.—R. Alexander, C. Richardson. . . . . 2
19. EAST TEXAS CONF.—R. Crawford, W. C. Lewis. . . . . 2

---

*Total,* 101

JOURNAL  
OF THE  
General Conference  
OF THE  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH,  
MAY, 1850.

---

THE Second General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was held in Centenary Church, St. Louis, Missouri, beginning May 1, 1850.

On account of severe personal and family affliction, Bishop Soule was not present. Bishops Andrew, Capers, and Paine were in attendance, and Bishop Andrew opened the session, at 9 o'clock, A. M., by reading 2 Cor. vi., singing the 272d Hymn,

“And are we yet alive?”

and offering a suitable and impressive prayer.

The Secretary of the last Conference called the list of the Annual Conferences, and the following delegates presented their vouchers of election, and took their seats accordingly, viz. :

KENTUCKY CONFERENCE.—H. B. Bascom, B. T. Crouch, T. N. Ralston, W. H. Anderson, G. W. Brush, and S. A. Latta, a reserve, *vice* H. H. Kavanaugh.

LOUISVILLE CONF.—A. H. Redford.

MISSOURI CONF.—J. Lanius, and W. Caples, reserve, *vice* W. W. Redman, deceased.

ST. LOUIS CONF.—B. R. Johnson, J. Boyle, J. K. Lacy, and T. H. Capers.

TENNESSEE CONF.—J. B. McFerrin, F. E. Pitts, T. W. Ran-

dle, A. L. P. Green, M. M. Henkle, J. W. Hanner, E. Wadsworth, J. F. Hughes, G. W. Martin, and W. D. F. Sawrie.

HOLSTON CONF.—S. Patton, J. Atkins, C. D. Smith, W. Hicks, and W. H. Rogers.

MEMPHIS CONF.—G. W. D. Harris, M. J. Blackwell, T. L. Boswell, W. M. McFerrin, W. McMahon, M. Brock, and D. J. Allen.

MISSISSIPPI CONF.—L. Campbell, G. M. Rogers, and J. Lane.

LOUISIANA CONF.—W. E. Doty, and J. N. Hamill.

VIRGINIA CONF.—John Early, L. M. Lee, A. Dibrell, L. Rosser, reserve, *vice* G. W. Langhorne.

NORTH CAROLINA CONF.—W. Closs, C. F. Deems, P. Doub, and D. B. Nicholson.

GEORGIA CONF.—S. Anthony, J. E. Evans, I. Boring, G. F. Pierce, J. W. Glenn, and R. Reneau.

SOUTH CAROLINA CONF.—W. M. Wightman, H. A. C. Walker, J. Stacy, W. A. Gamewell, C. Betts, and N. Talley.

ALABAMA CONF.—T. O. Summers.

INDIAN MISSION CONF.—W. L. McAlister.

On balloting for a Secretary, it was ascertained that there was not a quorum of members present; whereupon the Bishop was requested to vacate the chair until 3 o'clock this afternoon.

An hour was then spent in devotional exercises, conducted by Bishops Capers and Paine, and J. Early, concluding with the benediction by Bishop Andrew.

### *Wednesday Afternoon, May 1.*

Conference met according to adjournment, Bishop Paine in the chair; religious exercises were conducted by M. M. Henkle.

After calling the roll, certificates of election were presented by A. Hunter, J. F. Truslow, and W. Moores, delegates from the Arkansas Conference. They took their seats accordingly.

As there was not a quorum present, Conference adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

### *Thursday Morning, May 2.*

Conference met pursuant to adjournment. Bishop Andrew in the chair; religious services were conducted by William McMahon.

The following delegates presented vouchers of their election, and took their seats:—

KENTUCKY CONFERENCE.—John C. Harrison.

LOUISVILLE CONF.—Edward Stevenson, E. W. Schon, Thos. Maddin.

MISSOURI CONF.—Andrew Monroe, William Patton.

MISSISSIPPI CONF.—Wm. Winans, Benj. M. Drake.

LOUISIANA CONF.—Samuel W. Speer, Richmond Randle.

VIRGINIA CONF.—Wm. A. Smith, Thos. Crowder, David S. Doggett, J. H. Davis.

NORTH CAROLINA CONF.—Hezekiah G. Leigh.

SOUTH CAROLINA CONF.—Albert M. Shipp, Robert J. Boyd, reserve, in place of Whitefoord Smith.

ALABAMA CONF.—Wm. Murrah, Jefferson Hamilton, Thos. W. Dorman.

ARKANSAS CONF.—Wm. P. Ratcliffe.

INDIAN MISSION CONF.—N. M. Talbot.

TEXAS CONF.—Robt. Alexander, Chauncey Richardson.

EAST TEXAS CONF.—Robt. Crawford, Wm. C. Lewis.

Thos. O. Summers of the Alabama Conference was elected Secretary, and David J. Allen of the Memphis Conference was appointed Assistant Secretary.

On motion of J. Early, the Editors of Methodist papers present were appointed a Committee to employ a Reporter, to report the proceedings of the Conference.

The Presiding Elder of St. Louis District, and the stationed preachers of St. Louis, were appointed a Committee on Public Worship.

The time of meeting and adjournment was fixed at 8½ o'clock, A. M., and 12½, P. M.

On motion of J. Early, the following Resolutions were adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the following Standing Committees be appointed, the first five to consist of one member from each delegation:—

1. On Episcopacy.
2. On Itinerancy.
3. On Boundaries.

4. On the Book Concern.
5. On Missions.
6. On Education.
7. On Revisals.
8. On Sabbath Schools.
9. On the claims of the American Bible Society.
10. On Temperance.

11. To ascertain the Expenses of the Bishops and Delegates to the Conference, and the best method of defraying the same.

*Resolved*, That the Delegates from each Annual Conference appoint from their own number, one member on all committees that may be constituted of one member from each Annual Conference.

On motion of John Early, the Bishop was requested to vacate the chair until 10½ o'clock, to allow the delegations time to elect their respective committees.

When the Bishop had resumed the chair, the following committees were reported:—

<i>Conferences.</i>	<i>On Episcopacy.</i>	<i>Itinerancy.</i>	<i>Boundaries.</i>	<i>Book Concern.</i>	<i>Missions.</i>
Kentucky, Louisville, Missouri, St. Louis, Tennessee, Holston, Memphis, Mississippi, Louisiana, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, Florida, Arkansas, Indian Mission, Texas, East Texas,	B. T. Crouch, Thos. Madden, W. Patton, B. R. Johnson, M. M. Henkle, Jas. Atkins, Wm. McMahon, B. M. Drake, S. W. Speer, Thos. Crowder, H. G. Leigh, S. Anthony, W. M. Wightman, W. Murrah, P. P. Smith, W. P. Ratcliffe, W. L. McAllister, C. Richardson, R. Crawford.	W. H. Anderson, E. W. Schon, J. Lanius, T. H. Capers, J. B. McFerrin, C. D. Smith, M. J. Blackwell, J. Lane, J. N. Hamill, L. M. Lee, Wm. Closs, Isaac Boring, N. Talley, T. W. Dorman, E. L. T. Blake, J. F. Truslow, W. L. McAllister, R. Alexander, W. C. Lewis.	J. C. Harrison, A. H. Redford, W. G. Caples, T. H. Capers, F. E. Pitts, Wm. Hicks, G. W. D. Harris, G. M. Rogers, R. Randle, J. H. Davis, C. F. Deems, John W. Glenn, H. A. C. Walker, G. Garrett, S. P. Richardson, A. Hunter, N. M. Talbot, C. Richardson, R. Crawford.	G. W. Brush, E. Stevenson, A. Monroe, J. Boyle, A. L. P. Green, S. Patton, D. J. Allen, W. Winans, W. E. Doty, W. A. Smith, Peter Doub, G. F. Pierce, C. Betts, J. Hamilton, P. P. Smith, A. Hunter, N. M. Talbott, R. Alexander, R. Crawford.	S. A. Latta, E. Stevenson, W. Patton, J. K. Lacy, E. Wadsworth, W. H. Rogers, W. M. McFerrin, L. Campbell, W. E. Doty, A. Dibrell, D. B. Nicholson, J. E. Evans, J. Stacy, E. Callaway, E. L. T. Blake, W. Moores, N. M. Talbott, C. Richardson, W. C. Lewis.

On motion of John Early, the Rules of the General Conference of 1846 were adopted; and, on motion of W. A. Smith, the Publishing Committee was instructed to publish 200 copies of the rules, together with the Standing Committees, and the residences of the delegates.

The second pillar from the door was agreed upon as the bar of the house.

The Conference then adjourned, with the benediction by the Bishop.

## RULES.

I. The Conference shall meet at half past eight o'clock, A. M., and adjourn at half past twelve o'clock, P. M., but may alter the times of meeting and adjournment at their discretion.

II. The President shall take the chair precisely at the hour to which the Conference stood adjourned, and cause the same to be opened by reading the Scriptures, singing, and prayer; and on the appearance of a quorum, shall have the Journals of the preceding day read and approved; when the business of the Conference shall proceed in the following order, namely: 1. Reports, first, of the standing, and then of the select committees. 2. Petitions, memorials, and appeals.

III. The President shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Conference; but in case of such appeal, the question shall be taken without debate.

IV. He shall appoint all committees not otherwise specially ordered by the Conference; but any member may decline serving on more than one committee at the same time.

V. All motions or resolutions introduced by any member, shall be reduced to writing, if the President, secretary, or any two members request it.

VI. When a motion or resolution is made and seconded, or a report presented, and is read by the secretary, or stated by the President, it shall be deemed in possession of the Conference; but any motion or resolution may be withdrawn by the mover at any time before decision or amendment.

VII. No new motion or resolution shall be made until the one under consideration is disposed of; which may be done by adoption or rejection, unless one of the following motions should intervene, which motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are placed—namely: Indefinite postponement; laying on the table; reference to a committee; postponement to a given time; amendment, or a substitute.

VIII. No member shall be interrupted when speaking, except by the President to call him to order, when he departs from the question, uses personalities, or disrespectful language; but any member may call the attention of the President to the subject, when he deems a speaker out of order. And any member may explain, if he thinks himself misrepresented.



IX. When any member is about to speak in debate, or to deliver any matter to the Conference, he shall rise from his seat, and respectfully address himself to the President.

X. No person shall speak more than twice on the same question, nor more than fifteen minutes at one time, without leave of the Conference; nor shall any person speak more than once until every member choosing to speak shall have spoken.

XI. When any motion or resolution shall have passed, it shall be in order for any member who voted in the majority to move for a reconsideration.

XII. No member shall absent himself from the service of the Conference without leave, unless he be sick, or unable to attend.

XIII. No member shall be allowed to vote on any question who is not within the bar at the time when such question is put by the President, except by leave of the Conference, when such member has been necessarily absent.

XIV. Every member who shall be within the bar at the time the question is put shall give his vote, unless the Conference, for special reasons, excuse him.

XV. No resolution altering or rescinding any rule of Discipline, shall be adopted until it shall have been at least one day in the possession of the Conference.

XVI. A motion to adjourn shall always be in order, and shall be decided without debate.

### *Friday Morning, May 3.*

Conference met at 8½ o'clock, A. M., Bishop Andrew in the chair; religious services by B. T. Crouch. The roll was called, and minutes read and approved.

On motion of J. Early, the Bishops were requested to present their Address, which was read by Bishop Andrew. It is as follows:—

### ADDRESS OF THE BISHOPS.

*Beloved Brethren,*—We greet you in the name of our common Lord, and would unite with you to record our gratitude to God who hath graciously preserved us during the last four years, and permitted us to assemble in this the Second General Con-

ference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The four years which have intervened since your last session, have been marked by the occurrence of extraordinary events, both in our own country and in foreign lands, in the political as well as in the ecclesiastical world. And as these changes must necessarily affect the movements of the Church, either for good or evil, it becomes us, as faithful and vigilant sentinels upon the walls of Zion to note carefully all these movements; so that we may turn them to the utmost account in promoting the great interests of the Redeemer's kingdom. Assembled from the various sections of our widely-extended Connection, you will be prepared to understand and represent, fully, the state of the Church, and the result of her operations during the last four years. You will examine carefully into the working of the various parts of our time-honoured system; remembering that the goodness of the system is no security for its success, unless the various departments of the government perform, efficiently, the functions assigned them. To you is committed the task of scrutinizing, closely, this administration in all its parts; and we trust it will be done fearlessly, and in the spirit of that gospel of which you are the accredited ministers.

The administration of the Bishops, and that of the Annual Conferences, will claim your special attention; as upon the proper conduct of these departments depends, to a very large extent, the prosperity and perpetuity of Methodism; and if, upon a careful examination, you shall discover that there has been error or delinquency, it is for you to apply the necessary correction.

So much depends upon the character of our itinerant ministry, that we cannot too sedulously guard this point. That the Annual Conferences be composed of men intelligent, sound in doctrine and principle, and devoted and self-denying in practice, is a matter of such obvious propriety, and such vital importance, as to require at your hands whatever of wise and prudent effort you may be able to direct to the accomplishment of this important end. It is respectfully submitted to the General Conference, whether some improvement may not be made in the method of admitting preachers on trial, and into full connection. To us it appears obvious, that there is some defect, either in the present plan it-

self, or in the manner in which the Annual Conferences carry it out.

In all systems which may not claim divinity of origin, there must needs be imperfection, and no scheme, however wise its authors, may claim such efficiency or completeness as not to admit of occasional changes in some of its details. Such is the character of the system of Methodism. While, in its great leading principles, both of doctrine and polity, our constitution admits of no changes; yet, in the minor economical regulations and usages of the Church, occasional changes may be allowed, and may even be rendered necessary by the change of circumstances and the altered phases of society. And, in view of this contingency, to you is committed the task of reviewing this subject quadrennially, and making such changes within your prescribed limits as you shall judge will tend most effectually to promote the great interests committed to your oversight. While, therefore, you may judge it proper to introduce some alterations into our existing plan of operations, yet this should always be done with great care, and only upon very clear proof of the superiority of the proposed alteration; for, while it is true that the antiquity of any law or custom is not proof conclusive of its rightful claim to perpetuity, yet when any law or custom has, for a long series of years, performed its part well in the accomplishment of the objects contemplated in its establishment, it appears to us, that in such case antiquity is an important argument in favour of its excellence. "Let well enough alone," is a sound maxim in all departments of life.

This is an age restless of restraint, and full of schemes for improvement and reform in every thing. We decide, perhaps too promptly, that we are a great deal wiser than our fathers. We have emerged from the clouds and mists which surrounded them, and walking abroad amidst the lights of the nineteenth century, are better prepared for manufacturing systems than they could have been. With this overwhelming conceit of our superior wisdom, no wonder the tendency of the time should be to make all things new. That our Church should feel the influence of this spirit is not, perhaps, surprising. But it is well for us at least to hold it to a strict accountability, and see that it makes no innovation upon those grand principles and usages which have been hitherto regarded as the distinctive peculiari-

ties of our system, and which have doubtless contributed very essentially to our success. Maintain Class-meetings, and maintain, in its efficiency, a scriptural Itinerancy. The Christian ministry must be a life of labour and of self-sacrifice. Ease and worldly comfort can be enjoyed very sparingly; and yet these are the things which we naturally enough desire to possess; hence the constant tendency to encroachment upon this important part of our system. The preachers are apt to desire to make the plan less burthensome to themselves and families; and the people, although they like the rule well enough when they chance to have an unpopular preacher, are in great danger of desiring, practically at least, to nullify the great principle on which the efficiency of the itinerant system depends, when they enjoy the ministrations of a favourite. Not only does the practice of petitioning for certain preachers prevail, but in many instances the official members of the circuit, or station, known by the title of the "official board," claiming to represent the wishes of the church, not only petition for certain preachers, but, sometimes in language which amounts almost to demand, leave the stationing authority no alternative but either to gratify their wishes, or incur the hazard of a war of parties in the congregation. The great conservative power, to be sure, in such cases, is lodged with the superintendents; but it is easy to perceive how difficult it is for the Bishop, in many instances, to preserve the proper balance, especially when he is entirely dependent on others for the necessary information and aid in carrying out the important principles of the system; and particularly is this the case, if, perchance, the preachers should, themselves, be parties to the scheme of favouritism.

There is yet another source of difficulty in the administration of the Bishops. The Book of Discipline gives to the Bishops the authority to transfer preachers from one Conference to another, and the exercise of this power seems to be essential to the success of our operations in spreading the Gospel through these broad lands. By its judicious exercise, a proper distribution of the talents of the ministry is secured; the stronger Conferences are made to supply the deficiencies of the weaker; and the peculiar necessities of the various portions of the work are consulted and provided for. Yet, while the importance of this principle must be manifest to all who understand our economy, it is

no easy task for the superintendents to maintain the integrity of our law in its practical applications. In the first place, it has come to be taken for granted, in many instances, that, for a Bishop to transfer a preacher to a distant field of labour without his consent, is an arbitrary exercise of power; and, in the second place, it is not to be concealed, that, in some instances, strong prejudices are entertained against preachers thus transferred, in the Conference to which they are sent, especially should the Bishop judge it proper to appoint them to what are esteemed eligible and important stations. Indeed, to such an extent has this feeling been indulged, that the Bishop has been requested to make no transfers to the Conference without first obtaining its consent. We merely make these statements that you may be aware of the difficulties of our position as superintendents; and we add only this additional word, that, if you expect the Bishops to administer the government of the church as it should be done, they must have the decided support of the preachers and the membership.

During the past four years we have endeavoured to discharge the duties pertaining to our office, as Bishops of the Church of Christ, according to our ability. It is for you to judge how far we have acquitted ourselves faithfully; and we shall await your decision, confident that you will endeavour to judge correctly in the premises. We regret that our labours have not been more efficient, and especially that we have not been able to extend our pastoral visitations to the different portions of the work more generally; but we suppose that, in view of the vast extent of the field of labour which you have assigned us, this was not expected; nor could we do so, even if we had time, however desirable it might be both to us and the people; for these visitations would require a considerable expenditure of money; and, from the amount appropriated for the support of the Bishops, we presume that no such expenditure was contemplated. It is for the General Conference to decide whether there shall be any addition to the number of Bishops. You are aware that our venerable and honoured friend, Bishop Soule, in consequence of increasing infirmities, is unable to perform any efficient service; nor can we hope to be favoured with his presence and valuable counsels at many of our Annual Conferences. In view of these circumstances, and of the great and constantly increas-

ing extent of our field of labour, we trust it will accord with your views of propriety to afford some additional strength to our Episcopacy.

The subject of Missions will claim your early and deliberate consideration. We believe there is no diversity of sentiment amongst us as to the importance of sustaining and extending this great enterprise. Yet it is to be feared there is not everywhere that deep and absorbing interest felt in its support which its importance demands. We rejoice, however, to believe that this interest is increasing; and we have no fear, while the authorities of the church conduct this department with prudence, that our people will sustain us, and promptly respond to all our reasonable calls upon them. We feel satisfied, however, that there must be a more general and hearty co-operation on the part of both preachers and people, in promoting this glorious work. Its claims must be regarded not of secondary interest, to be attended to, or neglected with impunity; or if attended to at all, to be postponed until all other demands on heart and purse are met; but as paramount, and of binding obligation. The field is the world, on large portions of which darkness, idolatry, superstition, and sin have settled as a thick cloud. The command of our risen Lord and the genius of our holy Christianity demand of the church the zeal, liberality, and self-denial necessary to carry the gospel, in its purity, its glory, and its power, into all these dark places of the earth. The character of our population, particularly in the newly-settled portions of the Republic, whether we regard its indigenous or its exotic classes, imperiously demands that we keep our banner continually waving in the van of immigration. From the plantations of the South and the Southwest; from the numerous tribes and fragments of tribes of Indians on our frontiers; from the poor and sparsely settled portions of our white population in the older States; from the swamps, and prairies, and mountains of our newly-acquired territory, as well as from the distant and gloomy lands of heathendom, an appeal, loud and affecting, calls to us for help. Why are not our missionaries entering into all these fields? Have we not a sufficient number? Look at the hundreds of local ministers of our Church, who, so far as their active devotion to the work of the ministry is concerned, are comparatively unemployed. And of our itinerant preachers—how many are but

little more than nominally such—labouring on small circuits, with a constant tendency to circumscribe the limits of their fields of labour, thus giving a local habitation, in many instances, to a much larger number of men than the necessities of the work actually require. Can we be at a loss for an answer? Is there a lack of means? A very cursory glance at the wealth and extravagance manifest in our congregations, must be a sufficient answer to this question.

Beloved brethren, we must assuredly wake up on this subject. Our ministers must feel that they are, by their call and commission, and by the solemnity of their ordination vows, constituted thoroughly missionaries, not for home and pleasant work only, but for any portion of the great field to which God, in the order of his providence, may call them. Our children must imbibe the spirit of missions from the teachings of the home fireside, from the associations and instructions of the Sunday-school room; and these impressions must be strengthened and matured in the academical and collegiate training of our sons and daughters.

In obedience to the instructions of the last General Conference, to send two missionaries to China, the Bishops, as early as practicable, appointed the Rev'ds. Charles Taylor, M. D., and Benjamin Jenkins, of the South Carolina Conference, to that empire. On looking over the whole field open to us in that far-off region, it was judged that the city of Shanghai presented the most favourable point at which to commence operations; accordingly, your Missionaries were directed to make that their field of labour, till they should be otherwise instructed. Under the providence of God, they have reached their assigned department, and we have reason to believe are prosecuting their great enterprise with becoming prudence and zeal. They make a strong appeal for help; and certainly, if we are in earnest in our attempts to aid in subjugating China's teeming millions to the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, *two men* can hardly be regarded as our full quota of troops for the grand army of invasion and occupation.

The Missions among the tribes of Indians on our border are, it is believed, gradually, but certainly, accomplishing the great object looked to in their establishment—the improvement of the Indians in all the relations and interests of this life, and of that which is to come. The work has been annually enlarging on our hands, and increasing in interest; and we feel that there

must be no declining in our zeal, no faltering in our efforts. God hath laid the burden of these people's souls upon us; and we must not prove derelict.

The important Missions to the slave population of the Southern plantations—emphatically the Missions of the Southern Church—have continued to share the sympathies of the Church, and the blessing of the Almighty, in a very eminent degree. The interest among the planters is extending, and the demand for Missionary labour in this department has been equal to our ability to supply. To this work we are especially called of God, and woe be to the Church if we neglect it. California has, since your last session, become a point of great importance. Its golden rocks and sands have attracted an immense population already; and it is settling up with a rapidity unparalleled in the history of the world. Under these circumstances, and in view of the fact that thousands of Southern people are removing thither, many of whom have urged us to send them the ministry of the word, it was judged proper to send missionaries to unfurl our banner in that distant and interesting portion of our great republic. Accordingly, the brethren, Boring and Wynn, of the Georgia Conference, and Pollock, of the St. Louis Conference, have sailed for St. Francisco, and we trust have safely arrived at their destination, and entered upon their labours. We have not judged it expedient to attempt the establishment of any other distant Mission, though we look wishfully to many points still unenlightened, which are either wholly unoccupied, or at least very partially cultivated by Protestant Missionaries. We cannot feel that our responsibilities are fully met while there is a single family of our common brotherhood to whom the word of life, in its purity, hath not been published.

The subject of Education will doubtless receive your earnest and prayerful consideration. Our Church has long since made its decision in favour of this important adjunct to the work of enlightening and converting the world. If we would exert our proper share of influence in directing the movements of mind and heart in this stirring age, we must connect Methodism with whatever is true and valuable, pure and beautiful in science and letters; and our children must identify the scriptural doctrines and the well-tried and time-honoured institutions of the Church of their fathers, with the recollections and associations not only



of the Sabbath-school room, but also of the halls of learning, and whatever is erudite or polished or eloquent in the utterance of professorial instruction. We believe that this great interest has been, to a considerable extent, appreciated; though we fear that, in a great many portions of the Connection, its importance has not been duly felt. Still, there has been a steady increase of interest and exertion, as is manifested by the rapid increase of schools which seek our patronage.

But while we acknowledge, with gratitude to God, the success which has attended our efforts in the cause of education, it may be well to inquire whether we may not render our educational operations more decidedly and extensively efficient in carrying out the grand objects for which the Church is labouring. Our aim is not merely to render Methodism respectable by associating it with profound scholarship, but mainly to imbue this scholarship with the principles and spirit of a pure and hallowing Christianity. We suggest for your consideration whether it might not be well, that in all our colleges the President, or some member of the Faculty, be required to deliver weekly lectures on the Scriptures, at which the students should be required to attend.

We beg leave to submit one more suggestion to the Conference on this deeply interesting subject. In our present plan of operations, it seems to us that we rely too much on the exertions of a few leading minds to sustain and carry forward our great educational operations. We need some scheme by which we can call to our aid the interest, the sympathies, and the prayers of the great masses of our people. Our work cannot be successfully prosecuted by calling into requisition the aid of travelling preachers, and the more enlightened and liberal portions of the laity, merely. Many of these act nobly; but this is not enough. We want in active play some mighty moral engine, which shall move the masses, and send its influences into every cabin, as well as every palace of the Connection.

In intimate association with the subject of education, permit us to call your special attention to such measures as may be necessary to furnish to the reading public a proper supply of the right sort of books. It will be a very imperfect discharge of the sacred trust committed to us, if, after we have carefully educated our children during the period of their juvenility, we turn

them over to other and antagonistic influences to furnish them with the mental aliment of their maturer age. The power of the press is everywhere felt and acknowledged in this country, and this almost omnipotent engine is in the hands of the enemies as well as friends of truth. The former have this advantage, that the propensities of a fallen and corrupt heart are all in their favour; and of this advantage they are not slow to avail themselves, as must be obvious to any one who looks for a moment at the overwhelming tide of worthless and corrupting literature with which a venal press is everywhere flooding the country, by means of what is falsely denominated "cheap literature." But besides these, there is another class of minds which our great adversary presses into his service. Men of intellect and genius make insidious attacks upon the foundations of our faith, under pretence of vindicating the claims of science to a free and unfettered investigation, and a full and fearless utterance of the discoveries of natural philosophy, without subjecting them to the teachings of Revelation. According to these teachers, the oracles of science are infallible, and from them there is no appeal. If these speculations quadrate with the Scriptures, very well; but if not, the authority of the Bible weighs nothing. Let it be remembered, that these assaults proceed from men of profound intellect; men who have been exalted to high seats in the temple of human wisdom and fame; who throw around their productions all the fascinations of genius, of science, and of eloquence, and whose sayings are endorsed by a long list of Quarterlies, Monthlies, and Weeklies. Is it any wonder that these pernicious sentiments find favour with thousands who are easily persuaded to believe what they wish may be true? Now is it not sufficiently obvious, that if we would counteract this evil tendency, we must employ, to the utmost of our ability, that potent auxiliary—the press? We must send throughout all the land weekly religious newspapers, whose columns, imbued with truth, and purity, and talent, and whose editorial management shall make them welcome messengers of peace and instruction, tending to improve head, and heart, and manners. Perhaps this is the most likely method of reaching and profiting the masses. The weekly press of our Church has been operating with considerable zeal and talent in this department, and great good has no doubt been the result. It is for the General Con-

ference to decide whether any change can be beneficially introduced into the conduct of this department. The Quarterly Review, as designed to meet an imperious demand in another department of literature, has not, we fear, been properly appreciated. We respectfully submit, that the Church cannot fully sustain herself in the position assigned her by Providence, without such a contribution to the higher and more permanent literature of the country, as was contemplated in the establishment of this publication.

But besides these Weekly and Quarterly instructors, there is another class of literature more permanent in its character. Books must be in every family; books to be read again and again, through successive generations; books to commune with our children when we shall slumber in the tomb. We should, by all means, make such arrangements as will enable us to meet this reasonable demand on the part of our people. Nor must we overlook those grand nurseries of the Church, her Sabbath-schools. We have suffered great loss because we have had no proper system organized, by which our Sabbath-schools could obtain the proper supply of suitable books. This difficulty, we trust, will be removed by your wisdom during this session. The Book Agent has been labouring, with commendable zeal and diligence in the department assigned him, and has, we believe, with the very limited means at his command, achieved quite as much as could have been reasonably anticipated. You will, doubtless, receive full reports from him, from the Managers of the Missionary Society, and the Southern Commissioners, touching the various interests committed to their management; and to these we refer you for ample information on all these topics.

When, in 1844, the General Conference, assembled in the city of New York, passed such resolutions as compelled the Southern Delegates, for their own protection, and in view of the safety and prosperity of the work of God in the places where they laboured, to protest against the illegality of the action then taken, setting forth the difficulties which that action would throw around them in the prosecution of the work, and indicating the course which necessity might compel them to pursue, that body, apparently in the spirit of kindness, adopted the Plan of Separation, which, looking to the prospective separation of the North and

South, laid down the outlines of an arrangement by which it was hoped that peace might, at least to a great extent, be preserved, and friendly relations established between the two great divisions of Methodism. This manifestation of kindly feeling was hailed by the South as the pledge of better things in times to come; but it has turned out to have been only the show of kindness, a mere transient impulse, and at the General Conference held at Pittsburgh, in 1848, our Northern friends pursued such a course of action as destroyed all hope on the part of the Southern Church, that she should either be able to obtain justice, or that fraternal relations would be established between the two Connections.

It will be remembered, that at your last session, with the hope of establishing such relations, you appointed the Rev. Lovick Pierce, D. D., your messenger to the General Conference at Pittsburgh. It was hoped that this indication of a desire for amicable relations on your part, would have met a hearty response from our Northern friends. If difficulties existed, it is presumed that such an arrangement might have been entered into as would have settled all such difficulties on a satisfactory basis. But your Messenger was rejected, and your offers of peace were met with contempt. Your Commissioners, charged with the management of the interests of the Southern Church in relation to the Book Concern and Chartered Fund, were treated with like discourtesy. Your claims were disposed of in a summary manner. The Plan of Separation was repudiated; the Southern claim to any portion of the Book Concern was denied; and the very men who, from sheer hatred to slavery, drove the South into separation, proved their sincerity and consistency by not only retaining all the slave-holding members already under their charge, but in making arrangements to gather as many more into the fold as practicable. The Plan of Separation was repudiated with the avowed purpose of invading Southern territory; and as an earnest of their intentions in this respect, a new Conference was organized, entirely within the limits of the Southern Church. The only probable result of this movement must be to produce strife and contention, crippling and breaking up feeble societies, and scattering firebrands throughout communities hitherto peaceful. No sober man could have contemplated this movement at first, without anticipating this result; and it has been faithfully

accomplishing its mission in this respect. In consequence of the position assumed by the Northern Church, we have felt ourselves at liberty to accept invitations to occupy circuits and stations heretofore within its limits. Many such invitations have been tendered to us from various portions of the land. We have not, however, sought to disturb the harmony of the Church by sending missionaries to seek or form societies where the people were satisfied with their present church relations. In many portions of Virginia, particularly, the people feeling that they were placed in an anomalous and undesirable position, and wishing to connect themselves with the Southern Church, as more congenial to their circumstances and feelings, have resolved to unite with us, and invite us to take charge of them. These calls we have not felt at liberty to refuse; but we have required, that in all such cases the people be able and willing to support the preachers we send them; and in no instance, we believe, have we drawn upon the Missionary Society for funds for their support.

We have intimated that the attempts of our Northern friends to invade Southern territory, had been productive of much trouble in some portions of our work; this, however, has not, we believe, materially affected the prosperity of our Church in those sections. We have been blessed with numerous revivals and a considerable increase in all the Conferences thus situated. But of all their efforts in this inglorious course of action, none is more deeply to be deplored and condemned, than their attempt to alienate the Indian tribes, among whom your missionaries were labouring peaceably, and with some good degree of success. These Indians were uninformed as to the true grounds of the division, and had no interest whatever in the quarrel between North and South; and the only possible result of an attempt to separate them from their pastors must be to produce strife and contention, greatly to the injury, if not the destruction, of religious influence among them. It is difficult to understand how the ministers of the God of peace should have lent their influence to the promotion of an enterprise of such doubtful character.

Upon a review of the operations of the Church for the last four years, we think we may say, with gratitude to God, that her course has been onward. In all the great departments of our work, there has been improvement; and we are encouraged to trust in God and go forward. Many of us are growing old,

and must soon cease to labour ; but God and the Church can do very well without us. Young men are rising up to fill our places, who will be greater and better than we have been. Jesus redeemed the Church : he loves her, and will bless and keep her. This is our comfort, and on this assurance we calmly and confidently rest.

And now, beloved brethren, we have only to say further : Let the deliberations of your present session be conducted under the immediate influence of God's recognized presence. There will be differences of opinion arising from sectional peculiarities, as well as other causes ; yet, while we remember that we all be brethren, and keep in mind the apostolic injunction, "in honour preferring one another," our discussions will be courteous, and our Conference a peaceful and profitable one. May the Great Head of the Church direct us, and overrule all our action to His glory, and the wide diffusion of His glorious Gospel.

J. O. ANDREW,  
W. CAPERS,  
R. PAINE.

*St. Louis, May 3, 1850.*

The chair was then taken by Bishop Capers ; and on motion of J. Early, the publication of the Address was ordered.

On motion of J. Early, it was—

*Resolved*, 1. That so much of the Bishops' Address as relates to the manner of receiving Preachers, be referred to the Committee on Revisals.

*Resolved*, 2. That so much as relates to our literary institutions, be referred to the Committee on Education.

*Resolved*, 3. That so much as relates to missions, be referred to the Committee on Missions.

*Resolved*, 4. That so much as relates to the future supply of our people with books and periodicals, be referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

*Resolved*, 5. That so much as relates to the strengthening of the Episcopacy, be referred to the Committee on Episcopacy.

*Resolved*, 6. That so much as relates to Sunday-schools, be referred to the Committee on Sunday-schools.

On motion of J. B. McFerrin, it was resolved, that so much of

the Bishops' Address as relates to Itinerancy, be referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

On motion of M. M. Henkle, so much of the Address as refers to the occupation of Southern territory by the Northern M. E. Church, was referred to a special committee.

The Bishop called for petitions, memorials, and appeals.

The Conferences were called over in order.

T. N. Ralston presented a memorial from the Kentucky Conference, which was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy; another, which was referred to the Committee on Boundaries; and another, which was referred to the Committee on Education.

J. Lanius, Missouri Conference, presented a memorial from F. B. Leach, S. Griggs, and Wm. Best, Trustees of the M. E. Church, South, in Quincy, Illinois, which, on motion of T. Crowder, was referred to a committee, to be called the Committee on Petitions and Memorials.

R. Randle, Louisiana Conference, presented a memorial from J. C. Clarke, J. W. Crockett, and J. Randolph, Committee on behalf of the Quarterly Conferences of Lafayette, Andrew Chapel and Elijah Steele Charge, New Orleans, which was referred to the Committee on Episcopacy.

C. F. Deems, North Carolina Conference, presented a memorial from that Conference, which was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

W. L. McAllister, Indian Mission Conference, presented a memorial from that Conference, which was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

E. Stevenson presented a resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Missions.

McFerrin and Henkle presented an Exhibit of the Nashville Christian Advocate, which was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

A petition from J. J. Hill, in behalf of Soule Chapel Station, Covington, Kentucky Conference, was presented, and referred to the Committee on Revisals.

On motion of S. Patton, the Committee on Itinerancy was instructed to inquire into the practicability of devising some plan by which the labours and influence of local preachers may be rendered more available to the Church, and report the result of their inquiry, by rule or otherwise, to this Conference.

A communication was received from the stewards of the Methodist Protestant Church in St. Louis, offering the use of their house of worship to the members of the Conference. It was referred to the Committee on Public Worship.

C. Betts presented the Exhibit of the Southern Christian Advocate, which was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

Bishop Paine announced the following committees :—

*Committee on Education*—W. M. Wightman, L. Rosser, B. T. Crouch, J. W. Hanner, and J. Hamilton.

*Committee on Revisals*—J. B. McFerrin, D. S. Doggett, T. N. Ralston, T. O. Summers, and W. Patton.

*Committee on Sunday-schools*—C. F. Deems, M. J. Blackwell, and R. Reneau.

*Committee on American Bible Society*—Joseph H. Davis, Jas. Stacy, and J. Lanius.

*Committee on Temperance*—Geo. F. Pierce, G. W. Brush, and T. L. Boswell.

*Committee on the Expenses of Delegates*—H. A. C. Walker, J. W. Glenn, and Wm. E. Doty.

*Special Committee on the Occupation of Southern Territory by the Northern M. E. Church*—M. M. Henkle, T. Crowder, and J. Boyle.

The following resolution was presented, read, and laid on the table, according to the rule :—

*Resolved*, That the following question and answer be added to the second section of the 4th chapter of the Book of Discipline :

“ *Ques. 3.*—What shall be done when a local elder or deacon is reported, or believed, to have lost his grace or usefulness, and the Quarterly Meeting Conference shall refuse to pass his official character on that ground ?

“ *Answer.*—The Quarterly Meeting Conference shall proceed to investigate the complaint ; and if the complaint shall be sustained by evidence, the elder or deacon shall be divested of his ministerial character. The preacher in charge shall have exact minutes of the investigation kept by the Secretary of the Conference. The local elder or deacon shall have the right of appeal



to the Annual Conference, as provided for under the question second, in sec. 2d, chap. 4."

S. W. SPEER,  
B. M. DRAKE.

The Conference then adjourned, with prayer by G. W. D. Harris.

*Saturday Morning, May 4.*

Conference met at the stated hour; Bishop Paine occupied the chair, and religious services were conducted by James E. Evans.

The roll was called and the name of Samuel W. Capers, who produced the vouchers of his election by the S. C. Conference, was inserted.

The Minutes were read and approved.

B. T. Crouch presented the Report of the Trustees of Transylvania University to the General Conference, which was read, and referred to the Committee on Education.

John Early, Book Agent, presented his Report, which was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

W. Hicks presented a memorial from sundry persons within the bounds of the Catawba Circuit, Holston Conference, which was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

B. R. Johnson presented certain resolutions in behalf of the St. Louis Conference, which were referred, according to their character, to the Committees on Revisals, Book Concern, and Sunday-schools.

M. Brock presented resolutions on behalf of the Memphis Conference, respecting the establishment of a Book Concern in Memphis, which, on his motion, were laid on the table for the present.

J. N. Hamill presented resolutions in behalf of the Louisiana Conference, which, according to their character, respectively, were referred to the Committees on Boundaries, Sunday-schools, and the Book Concern.

On motion of H. B. Bascom, the fifteen minute rule was suspended to allow W. A. Smith to speak at large on the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That a special committee be raised, with instruc-

tions to consider and report a bill, if they deem it expedient, for the organization of future sessions of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, *by two Houses*—an Upper and a Lower House, conformed, as far as may be deemed advisable, to the following outline, viz. :

1st. The Lower House shall be constituted as the present General Conference now is, and invested with the same authority, so far as may be judged necessary to conform its relative powers to those of the other branch of the Legislature.

2d. The Upper House shall be constituted by not less than *one* nor more than *two travelling elders* for each Annual Conference, to be elected by those laymen who are of mature age, and in full connection with the Church. It shall be invested with authority to pass upon all the acts of the Lower House, and shall constitute a High Court of Appeals in the case of the trial and condemnation of a Bishop, and to determine all questions of ecclesiastical law that may arise in the administration of the Discipline.

WM. A. SMITH,  
THOS. CROWDER.

After a lucid exposition and able defence of these resolutions by the mover, it was, on motion of J. B. McFerrin, laid on the table, and made the order of the day for Wednesday next.

J. E. Evans presented resolutions which were referred to the Committee on Revisals.

F. E. Pitts presented a resolution which was referred to the Committee on Education.

A. L. P. Green presented a resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Education.

J. Hamilton presented a resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

F. E. Pitts presented a resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Sunday-schools.

J. Stacy presented resolutions which were referred to the Committee on Revisals.

The following resolution was presented and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern :—

*Resolved*, That the Editors of our Periodicals shall not be at

liberty to publish any communication whatever, without the proper signature of the writer.

A. L. P. GREEN,  
W. WINANS.

On reconsideration, the name of the Committee on the Book Concern was changed to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

J. Stacy presented a resolution which was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

E. Stevenson presented the Reports of the Missionary Society of the M. E. Church, South, which were referred to the Committee on Missions.

J. F. Hughes presented a resolution which was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

W. Winans presented a resolution which was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

The Bishop announced the names of the Committee on Petitions and Memorials, to wit:—A. Dibrell, G. M. Rogers, W. A. Gamewell.

The Conference then adjourned, with prayer by W. Patton.

*Monday Morning, May 6.*

Conference met, Bishop Andrew in the chair. Religious services by B. M. Drake.

The reading of the roll was dispensed with.

The Minutes were read and approved.

A. H. Mitchell, G. Garrett, and J. T. Heard, of the Alabama Conference; E. L. T. Blake of the Florida Conference; C. Collins of the Holston Conference; H. H. Kavanaugh of the Kentucky Conference, produced vouchers of their election, and took their seats accordingly.

L. M. Lee, chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, presented reports, numbered 1, 2, 3, which were read and laid on the table, according to rule.

J. B. McFerrin, chairman of the Committee on Revisals, presented Report No. 1, as follows:—

The Committee on Revisals beg leave to report, in part, as follows:—

1. They have had under consideration the resolution pre-

pared by Bro. Stacy, asking attention to item 2, sec. 19, page 70, and they recommend that the entire item be erased from the Discipline, beginning at the word "*Provided*," found in the 7th line from the top.

2. Your Committee have considered the resolution of Bros. Winans and Deems, and recommend the addition of the following words to the end of Ans. 2, Ques. 3. sec. 5, p. 37, "and for promoting the interests of the Missionary Cause."

3. The resolution of Bros. Hamilton and Green has been considered, and your Committee recommend the following Rule, instead of Ans. 3, to Ques. 2, sec. 7, page 43:—"Ans. 3. He shall have kept a permanent record of all the baptisms in the bounds of his charge."—And they further recommend the erasure of the following words, found in the second and third lines from the top of page 169:—"to register the marriages and baptisms."

4. Your Committee have maturely considered the resolution of the St. Louis Conference, referring to the manufacture and sale of spirituous liquors, and they judge any further legislation on these subjects unnecessary, believing that the rules of our Church are sufficiently explicit, and, if faithfully and judiciously administered, will accomplish every thing desirable in reference to these questions.

Respectfully submitted.

J. B. McFERRIN, *Chairman*.

*St. Louis, May 6, 1850.*

This Report was read and laid on the table, according to rule.

G. W. D. Harris, chairman of the Committee on Boundaries, presented Report No. 1, which was read and laid on the table, according to rule.

The Bishop called for Petitions, Memorials, and Appeals.

E. W. Sehon presented a memorial from the Louisville Conference, requesting the permanent location of the Book Concern and Missionary Society at Louisville, which was referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals; also a memorial from the Publishing Committee of the Methodist Expositor and True Issue, praying the General Conference to adopt said paper. It was referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

J. Lanier presented a memorial from the Missouri Conference, requesting the establishment of the Book Concern at

St. Louis. It was referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

J. Lanius also presented a resolution of the Missouri Conference, requesting the reduction of the price of books and periodicals, which was referred to the Committee on that subject.

S. Patton presented a Report of the Holston Conference, requesting the adoption of the Methodist Episcopalian by the General Conference, which was referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

C. Richardson presented resolutions from the Texas Conference, requesting the adoption of the Texas Wesleyan Banner as a General Conference paper; and other matters, which were referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

J. Hamilton, at his own request, was excused from serving on the Committee on Education, and A. H. Mitchell was appointed in his place.

The following resolution was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed, to be called the Committee on Finance, to take into consideration our entire system of Church Finance for the support of the ministry, and to report to the Conference such modifications, if any, as they may judge expedient on the subject.

T. N. RALSTON,  
S. PATTON.

The resolution of S. W. Speer and B. M. Drake was taken up and referred to the Committee on Revisals.

The following resolution was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That a Special Committee be appointed to take into consideration the expediency of adopting a System of Colportage, to aid the preachers in the circulation of our books and periodicals, and to report to this Conference such plan for the accomplishment of this work as they may judge advisable.

T. N. RALSTON,  
S. PATTON.

S. W. Speer presented a resolution, instructing the Committee on Revisals to report suitable rules for the Government of An-

nual Conferences, especially in regard to a tie vote, and other subjects—referred to said Committee.

J. Stacy presented a resolution, touching the form of receiving persons into full connection, which was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

C. Richardson presented resolutions instructing the Committee on Revisals to inquire into the propriety of making sundry alterations in the Baptismal Service, and the Creed, and the repeal of the Ninth Section, which were referred to that Committee.

W. Murrah presented a Resolution, instructing the Committee on Books and Periodicals to inquire into the expediency of reducing the number of our Church papers, which was so referred.

On motion of A. H. Mitchell, the Committee on Revisals was instructed to consider the propriety of preparing a form of service for the dedication of Churches.

On motion of D. S. Doggett, the Committee on Itinerancy was instructed to inquire into the expediency of furnishing ministerial probationers better facilities for preparing for their ministry.

On motion of E. W. Sehon, the Committee on Revisals was instructed to inquire into the propriety of striking out the word "*two*," and inserting "*three*," in the Discipline, chap. ii., sec. v., Ans. 2, to Ques. 3, page 36.

On motion of W. Hicks, the Committee on Revisals was instructed to inquire into the expediency of making certain alterations of the Discipline in regard to the trial of ministers.

The following resolution was offered:—

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed so to amend section Second of the Temporal Economy of the Church, as to give to the Stewards of the circuit or station, the authority to determine the particular manner in which the churches shall be seated; and to provide that, if any Board of Stewards violate the rule, "Let the men and women sit apart in all our churches," or shall permit the seats to be rented or sold, that the Quarterly Conference shall remove such Stewards as have favoured the violation, and appoint others in their places; and that the Presiding Elder be required to see that the rule is executed.

B. M. DRAKE,  
J. B. McFERRIN.

B. M. Drake was allowed to sustain this resolution without regard to the fifteen minute rule.

On motion of W. Winans, the resolution was amended by striking out the words "*so to amend*," and inserting "to inquire into the expediency of so amending." The resolution was then adopted.

A resolution of the Mississippi Conference on the same subject was presented and referred to the same Committee.

On motion of E. L. T. Blake, the Committee on Revisals was instructed to consider and report on certain alterations of the Discipline in regard to the ordination of Local Preachers.

A resolution of the Mississippi Conference, in regard to the establishment of a Monthly Periodical, to be devoted to Biblical Literature, was presented and referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

On motion of J. Hamilton, the Committee on Revisals was instructed to inquire into the propriety of changing the position of certain parts of the Discipline.

A resolution of H. A. C. Walker, touching amendments of Discipline, was referred to the same Committee.

The following resolution was referred to the Committee on Finance:—

*Resolved*, That paragraph the Third, of section the Fourth, part second, be so altered as to read, "*twenty-five*," in the place of "*sixteen*," and "*fifty*," in the place of "*twenty-four*."

D. S. DOGGETT,  
T. CROWDER.

On motion of F. E. Pitts, the Committee on Books and Periodicals, was instructed to consider the policy of appropriating the proceeds of Books and Periodicals exclusively to the support of the Bishops, widows, and orphans.

On motion of W. Ratcliffe, the Committee on Revisals was requested to inquire into the propriety of allowing any regular male member of the Church, twenty-one years of age, to be eligible to the office of Trustee.

As the cholera has made its appearance in St. Louis, and as a member of the Conference, Isaac Boring, of the Georgia Conference, has been reported dangerously ill with that disease, the

propriety of continuing the session in this city was questioned; and, on motion of W. Winans, the following members, one for each Conference, were appointed a committee to confer with the Bishops on this subject, to wit:—Messrs. Bascom, Sehon, Cables, Boyle, Green, Collins, McMahon, Lane, Hamill, Early, Closs, G. F. Pierce, Boyd, Mitchell, Richardson, Moores, Talbott, Alexander, and Crawford.

The Conference then adjourned, with the benediction by the Bishop, to meet again this afternoon, at 5 o'clock.

*Monday Afternoon, May 6.*

Conference met, Bishop Andrew in the chair. Religious services by M. J. Blackwell.

The Minutes were read and approved.

The Committee appointed this morning, reported that they had made inquiries in reference to the prevalence of cholera in this city, and are of opinion, that the Conference ought not to suspend its session on that account; which report, on motion of W. Patton, was adopted.

On motion of J. E. Evans, the Bishops were requested, and the chairmen of committees were instructed, to prepare and report to the Conference such business as they consider of most importance, with as much promptitude as possible.

On motion of J. Early, that portion of the Report of the Committee on Boundaries, providing for the formation of a Western Virginia Conference, was taken up, and, on motion of the same, was adopted, as follows:—

The committee, after considering the memorial of the Kentucky Conference, unanimously resolved to recommend the erection of a new Annual Conference, to be called the Western Virginia Conference; and that this new Conference shall include all that part of the State of Virginia which is, or *may be*, under our jurisdiction, not included in the present Virginia, North Carolina, or Holston Conference.

G. W. D. HARRIS, *Chairman*.

On motion of J. Early, the first session of the Western Virginia Conference was appointed to be held at Parkersburg, Va.

B. T. Crouch was released, at his own request, from serving



on the Committee on Education, and H. H. Kavanaugh was put in his place.

G. W. Brush having left on account of the dangerous illness of a child, S. A. Latta, reserve delegate, who had previously filled the place of H. H. Kavanaugh, took the place of the former.

H. B. Bascom was appointed to take the place of G. W. Brush, in the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

On motion of J. Early, the Report on Itinerancy, No. 3, was taken up and recommitted, with instructions to the Committee to report a remedy for the evil complained of in that paper.

On motion of J. Early, the 15th rule was suspended, to allow the Report, No. 1, of the Committee on Itinerancy to be taken up. On motion of W. Winans, it was taken up and adopted, as follows:—

The Committee on Itinerancy, to whom was referred the resolution of the Kentucky Conference, instructing their delegates to procure a change in the proviso of Second answer to the Third question of chapter Second, section Fifth, p. 37, of the Discipline; and also to the Eleventh answer to the same question, p. 38, having had the same under consideration, beg leave to submit the following report:—

The Rules referred to were, in our judgment, enacted for a class of circumstances not existing in our Church; and believing that they have operated as barriers, in many instances, to the just and proper exercise of Episcopal discretion, without in any degree advancing the interests of the Church, or promoting the efficiency of the Itinerancy, we recommend that the change asked for by the Kentucky Conference be granted.

Respectfully submitted.

L. M. LEE, *Chairman.*

The Bishop announced the following Committee on Finance:—  
T. N. Ralston, W. A. Smith, and J. Boyle.

The Conference then adjourned, with the benediction by the Bishop.

*Tuesday Morning, May 7.*

Conference met, Bishop Andrew in the chair. Religious services conducted by T. Crowder.

The minutes were read and approved.

The chair announced the arrival of Bishop Soule, stating, however, that he was too unwell to attend the Conference.

P. P. Smith, delegate of the Florida Conference, presented his voucher, and took his seat.

Bishop Capers then took the chair, and called for the reports of committees.

The Committee on Missions presented their Report, No. 1.

On motion of E. W. Sehon, the rule requiring reports to lie over one day before acted upon, was suspended, and, on motion of J. E. Evans, the Report was adopted, as follows:—

The Committee on Missions would beg leave to report, in part, as follows:—

That the Twelfth item of the Sixth section of our Discipline be stricken out, and that the Eleventh item of the same be so amended as to read as follows, (beginning on page 186, end of 6th line from the top,) “and furthermore, it shall be his duty to attend to all the business of the Society with the Government of the United States in relation to the schools which have been, or may hereafter be, committed to our hands in the Indian country by the Department of the Interior, or Commissioner of Indian affairs. And it shall be his duty to prepare and superintend the publication of the Annual Reports of the Society, under the direction of the Board of Managers.”

E. STEVENSON, *Sec. Com. pro tem.*

The Bishop then called for petitions and memorials.

R. Crawford presented resolutions of the East Texas Conference, requesting that the Texas Wesleyan Banner be made a General Conference paper, and that the name of the Texas Conference be changed to, West Texas Conference. The former were referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals, and the latter to the Committee on Revisals.

On motion of G. W. D. Harris, the resolutions of Memphis Conference were taken up, and referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

A Petition of certain citizens of Paducah, Ky., praying the General Conference to locate the Book Concern in that city, was presented by G. W. D. Harris, and referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

An invitation from the citizens of Paducah, to adjourn the Conference to that city, in the event of the prevalence of the cholera in St. Louis, was presented, and, on motion of W. Wiggins, was, with due appreciation of the proffered courtesy, laid on the table, to be taken up when circumstances require action in the premises.

On motion of W. M. Wightman, the Committee on Revisals was instructed to inquire into the propriety of changing the ratio of representation in the General Conference, from one for every fourteen, to one for every twenty-one members of each Annual Conference.

On motion of W. E. Doty, the Committee on Revisals was instructed to inquire into the expediency of striking out the words "high heads and enormous bonnets," in the disciplinary article on Dress.

On motion of B. R. Johnson, the Financial Plan of the St. Louis Conference was referred to the Committee on Finance.

The following paper was then presented:—

Whereas, the Scriptures teach, that the ministry is to be supported by the freewill offerings of the Church; and whereas, it is a questionable policy to raise revenue for the support of the ministry by vested funds, or by the profits accruing from the publication and sale of Books and Periodicals; and whereas, it is desirable to ascertain the judgment of our entire ministry upon the subject, therefore,

*Resolved*, That we recommend to the Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, so to alter the 6th restrictive regulation of the Discipline, as to read: "They shall not appropriate the produce of the Book Concern to any purposes other than the publication of books, tracts, and periodicals, and for the reduction of the price of books to the lowest scale of profit above the expense of publishing, commensurate with the safe and profitable management of its affairs."

L. M. LEE,  
THOS. CROWDER.

After considerable discussion of the foregoing Preamble and Resolution, on motion of W. M. Wightman, the subject was laid on the table till the first of June.

On motion of J. E. Evans, the Committee on Books and Periodicals was instructed to inquire into the expediency of making arrangements to obtain a selection of the books of the American Sunday-school Union, for the use of the M. E. Church, South.

A Petition from the Tennessee Conference, requesting the location of the Book Concern at Nashville, was presented by J. W. Hanner, and referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

On motion of W. Winans, the 7th Rule of the Conference was amended, by adding at the end the following:—"provided, that a motion to lay on the table, shall be put without debate."

On motion of T. W. Dorman, J. Boyle and T. H. Capers were added to the Committee on Public Worship.

The Conference then adjourned, with prayer by T. Maddin.

### *Wednesday Morning, May 8.*

Conference met, Bishop Capers in the chair. J. Early conducted the customary devotions.

The minutes were read and approved.

Bishop Paine then took the chair, and called for reports of standing committees.

B. T. Crouch, from the Committee on Episcopacy, presented Report No. 1, On the Character of the Bishops; Report No. 2, On the affliction of Bishop Soule; Report No. 3, On the Election of a Bishop. These were all read, and laid on the table for the present. He also presented the following, as Report No. 4:—

The Committee on Episcopacy, having heard Bishop Capers's representation of the matters contained in a memorial from brethren in New Orleans, relative to the acts of the last Louisiana Annual Conference, and having fully considered the subject in the best light they could bring to bear upon it, adopted, by a majority of votes, the following resolutions, *viz.* :

*Resolved*, 1. That it is the sense of this committee, that when an Annual Conference acts as a court of appeals, a tie vote has

the same effect as when such a conference acts in any other capacity.

*Resolved*, 2. That it is the sense of this committee, that the action of the Louisiana Conference, on the appeal from the decision of the Quarterly Conference of Lafayette station, had the effect to leave the appellant in the church.

An extract from the Journals of the Alabama Conference, calling the attention of the Committee on Episcopacy to a decision which was given in a certain case by Bishop Capers, at the last session of the said Alabama Conference, was considered, and, by a majority-vote, declared to be in accordance with our rules and usages.

Respectfully submitted.

B. T. CROUCH, *Chairman*.

*St. Louis, Mo., May 7, 1850.*

The foregoing Report was read and laid on the table for the present.

The Report of the Committee on Itinerancy, No. 3, recommended on Monday last, was presented by L. M. Lee, and adopted, as follows, to wit:—

The Committee on Itinerancy beg leave to submit the following fact, as, in their judgment, at variance with the laws and usages of the Church, and ask the attention of the General Conference to the subject:—

They find, in the Journals of the Georgia Conference, “the case of a brother who was admitted on trial in the travelling connection, before his term of probation as a member of the Church, had expired;” and believing it to be a departure from the principles of the Discipline, interdicting the appointment of persons to offices of trust and responsibility in the Church, who are not in full membership with it, and as fraught with danger as a precedent; they recommend, for the adoption of the Conference, the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That it is inconsistent with the Constitution and Discipline of the Church, to admit persons to official trust and responsibility in the Church, and especially to the work of the ministry, who are not in full membership with the Church; and

that our Bishops be, and they hereby are, instructed to see that this resolution be carried into effect.

Respectfully submitted.

L. M. LEE, *Chairman*.

S. A. Latta, chairman of the Committee on Missions, presented Report No. 2, of that Committee, which was laid on the table for the present.

G. W. D. Harris, chairman of the Committee on Boundaries, presented Report No. 2, of that Committee, which was read, and the following amendment proposed:—

*Resolved*, That that part of the Report of the Committee on Boundaries which refers to the North Carolina Conference, be so amended as to leave the line between the North Carolina and South Carolina Conferences as it now is in the Book of Discipline.

H. A. C. WALKER,  
W. M. WIGHTMAN.

On motion of J. Early, the 15th rule was suspended, to allow the delegates of the North and South Carolina Conferences to discuss this question.

On motion of the same, the order of the day was laid on the table for the present, to allow of the discussion of the pending question.

The amendment was discussed at large by Brothers Walker, Wightman, Talley, and Stacy *for*, and Brothers Closs and Deems *against* its adoption. During its discussion the time of adjournment having nearly arrived, the session was protracted fifteen minutes.

The Rev. Dr. Potts, Pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church in St. Louis, and the Rev. Dr. Murray, of New Jersey, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, (Old School,) were presented, by J. Early, to the Bishop, by whom they were introduced to the Conference. They took their seats within the bar.

As H. G. Leigh wished to continue the discussion of the question before the Conference, and as the time to which the session had been protracted had nearly elapsed, on motion of Thos. O. Summers, the subject was laid on the table.

The Bishop presented a memorial from the Hardinsburg District, Louisville Conference, protesting against the transfer of the Louisville District to the Kentucky Conference, which was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

T. W. Dorman presented resolutions of the Alabama Conference, instructing the delegates of that conference to use their influence against the establishment of a great central Publishing House, and recommending the establishment of a Sunday-school paper, and a periodical for ladies, which were referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

On motion of J. E. Evans, the session was protracted till one o'clock.

J. B. McFerrin presented Report No. 2, of the Committee on Revisals, which was laid on the table, according to rule.

The Report is as follows:—

The Committee on Revisals submit the following as their Report in part:—

1. They have considered the Resolution offered by Bros. Sehon and Ralston, asking a change in the Discipline, chap. 2, sec. 5, ans. 2, ques. 3, p. 36, ninth line from the bottom, by striking out the word “two,” and inserting in its stead, “three.” Your committee recommend the alteration.

2. Your committee have considered the section on Dress, p. 80, to which their attention has been directed by the resolution of Bros. Doty and Closs, and they recommend the following alterations, *viz.*:—Strike out the words, “in order to this,” in the ninth line from the bottom of the page, and erase the figures 1, 2, 3, 4, and the whole item after the figure 4.

3. Your Committee have considered several resolutions asking attention to the rules regulating the appointment and duties of the Trustees of churches, and they recommend the following:—Let there be a new section inserted in the Discipline, p. 167, between sec. 2 and 3, part 2, entitled, “Of Trustees,” reading thus:—

“1. Let nine Trustees be appointed for holding church property, where proper persons can be procured: otherwise seven, or five.

“2. When a new Board of Trustees is to be created, it shall

be done (except in those states and territories where the statutes provide differently) by the appointment of the preacher in charge, or the presiding elder of the district.

“3. When any one or more of the Trustees shall die—”  
[Here insert p. 164, commencing on 5th line from top, ‘or cease to be a member or members,’ down to the word ‘society,’ p. 165, third line from bottom.]

“4. No person shall be eligible as a Trustee to any of our houses, churches, or schools, who is not a regular member of our church.

“5. No person who is a Trustee, shall be ejected while he is in joint security for money, unless such relief be given him as is demanded, or the creditor will accept.

“6. The Board of Trustees of every circuit or station shall be responsible to the Quarterly Conference of said circuit or station, and shall be required to present a report of its acts during the preceding year, to the Quarterly Conference, which shall have power to dismiss any of them from office.”

[Erase from p. 164, commencing second line from top, all after the word “therein,” down to the word “society,” on p. 165, and omit the appended note on p. 167.]

4. The resolution of the East Texas Conference, asking a change in the name of the Texas Conference, has been under consideration, and your committee report unfavourably.

5. The resolution of Bros. Mitchell and Murrah, asking “a form of service to be used in the dedication of churches,” has been investigated; and while your committee would encourage the erection of suitable and convenient houses of worship, they deem it *inexpedient* to adopt any particular form of service to be observed in their dedication.

6. The resolution introduced by Bros. Stacy and Walker has been favourably considered, and your committee recommend the following amendment to ans. 9, ques. 1, sec. 7, p. 42:—after the word “preachers,” insert “probationers.”

7. The resolution offered by Bros. Wightman and Betts, asking a reduction in the number of delegates from each Annual Conference, has been viewed with favour by the committee. They recommend a change in ans. 1, ques. 1, sec. 2, p. 27, so as to read, “The General Conference shall be composed of one



member for every *twenty-one* members of each Annual Conference."

8. In the third line of first answer, to the question, chap. 2, sec. 19, p. 69, change "four" to "two." Add to the first item of ans. 1, the words, "and given satisfactory evidence to the Conference respecting his knowledge of those particular subjects which have been recommended to his consideration in the *course of study* prescribed for the candidates for the ministry." In the second answer to the question, in the fourth line of the answer, change "four" to "two;" and on page 70, add to the second answer to the question, after the word "ordained," in seventh line from the top, the following words, *viz.*: "provided he give satisfactory evidence to the Conference respecting his knowledge of those particular subjects which have been recommended to his consideration in the *course of study* prescribed for the candidates for the ministry." Also add to the second answer to the question, p. 70, the following words, *viz.*: "Provided always, that when a local preacher shall have passed his examination, and been elected to the office of deacon, but fails of his ordination through the absence of the Bishop, his eligibility to the office of elder shall run from the time of his election to the office of a deacon." On p. 70, sec. 19, chap. 2, substitute for the fifth answer to the question, the following words:—"It is recommended to the local preachers to co-operate, as far as practicable, with the preachers in charge of circuits, in supplying the people, on the Sabbath, with the ministration of the word."

The committee recommend to the Conference the adoption of the following Resolutions, *viz.*:

*Resolved*, That the Bishops be, and are hereby respectfully requested, to prepare for insertion in the Discipline, the *Course of Study* prescribed for the candidates for the ministry, revised and enlarged, so far as they may judge expedient.

The committee recommend that the following sentence be inserted after the word "church," in paragraph 3, sec. 3, chap. 2: "in order that such assurance may be given, let the following, or similar questions be asked:—1. Do you cordially embrace the doctrines of our church, as contained in our Articles of religion?—2. Will you obediently keep God's holy commandments,

and walk in the same all the days of your life?—3. Will you diligently observe the rules of our church?"

Respectfully submitted.

J. B. McFERRIN, *Chairman*.

J. Boyle presented a memorial of Messrs. Mitchell, Veitch, and others, citizens of St. Louis, praying for the location of a Paper and Book Depository in said city, which was referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

On motion of W. E. Doty, the Committee on Books and Periodicals was instructed to consider the importance of establishing a Book Depository in New Orleans.

On motion of W. Murrah, the Committee on Revisals was instructed to inquire into the propriety of arranging the business of Quarterly Conferences under definite questions, as in the case of Annual Conference proceedings.

The Conference was then addressed by the Rev. Dr. Murray, who expressed his high satisfaction in meeting so many brethren in the ministry at so remote a point in the West, engaged in promoting the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom. He expressed his conviction, that the Presbyterian and Methodist churches were specially called, in the providence of God, to wage warfare against the system of sacramental religionism, by which so many seek to substitute the truth as it is in Jesus, and that they ought to co-operate, as far as may be, in their respective evangelical operations. The Doctor made a feeling reference to his own early experience, and stated, that some thirty years since, when in New York, he was in the habit of frequently attending the ministrations of a venerable minister now in attendance at this Conference, and derived thereby great advantages in forming his own religious principles and character. The allusion was to Bishop Soule, who was present during the morning session, though too feeble to occupy the chair.

The presiding Bishop responded very happily to the Doctor, assuring him, on behalf of the Conference, that his sentiments of fraternal regard, so kindly expressed, were fully reciprocated, and that the Methodists, in common with all other evangelical Christians, were under special obligations to the author of "Kirwan's Letters to Bishop Hughes," for his noble defence of our

common Protestant faith. He then introduced him to Bishops Soule, Andrew, and Capers.

This incident in the morning's proceedings had a most refreshing influence upon all present.

The time having expired, the Conference adjourned, with the benediction by Bishop Soule.

*Thursday Morning, May 9.*

Conference met, Bishop Andrew in the chair. The usual devotions were led by A. H. Mitchell. Bishop Paine then took the chair.

The Minutes were read and approved.

The chair was then resumed by Bishop Andrew, who called for reports of standing committees.

H. B. Bascom presented the report of the Commissioners appointed by the General Conference of 1846, to manage the Property Question between the Northern and Southern Divisions of the M. E. Church. It is as follows:—

The Commissioners appointed by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in 1846, to manage, in behalf of said Conference and Church, the Property Question, then and still pending between the Northern and Southern Divisions of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, ask leave to report:—

That, in conformity with the action of the General and Annual Conferences in the premises, after all other methods of fair and honourable adjustment had failed, as shown by the action of the Northern General Conference of 1848, they proceeded in due form to institute suits in the Circuit Courts of the United States for New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, for the settlement of claims not likely to be adjusted in any other form.

As instructed by counsel, the Commissioners report, that these suits are in a state of progress beyond what is usual within the same length of time, in the instance of suits of similar magnitude in courts of equity. We are instructed to say, the fair probability is, that the suits in New York and Ohio will be decided in time for final trial upon appeal in the Supreme Court

of the United States, at its next Annual term, the ensuing winter. The suit at Philadelphia will probably not be decided at a period so early; and as the interests involved at that point are of minor magnitude, the Commissioners report the fact with the less regret.

The employment of able counsel in the several Circuit courts designated, and also in the Supreme Court of the United States, was not to be effected without heavy advances in the shape of fees, and incidental expenditures, and the Commissioners have accordingly drawn on the Book Agent of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, for the sum of *twenty-two hundred and fifty dollars*, for the former purpose; and for the latter, the sum of *four hundred dollars*, three hundred of which has been received by the Commissioners, in payment in part of the actual expense incurred by them in execution of the trust confided to them.

The Commissioners are further instructed to say, that, in the judgment of counsel, it is necessary that the Commissioners, one or more of them, acting under the full commission of the General and Annual Conferences, and the Church at large, or some person or persons appointed by them, and well acquainted with the whole subject, should be in free and frequent conversation with counsel, for the purposes of correct information with regard to facts, the proper arrangement of evidence, the selection of suitable witnesses, and the more effectually to secure the ends for which the suits were instituted. Should the General Conference expect the Commissioners to meet such a requisition, some action of the Body may be necessary to enable them to do so, without injustice to themselves, or detriment to the interests with which they are charged as Commissioners.

All which is respectfully submitted.

*Signed,*

H. B. BASCOM,  
A. L. P. GREEN,  
C. B. PARSONS.

*St. Louis, May 8, 1850.*

*Counsel*—Webster, Lord, Johnson, Meredith, Stansbury, Brien, Davis, Spencer, and Corwin.

On motion of W. Murrah, the chair was requested to appoint a committee, composed of one delegate from each Annual Conference, to confer with the Bishops, immediately after this

morning's session, on the subjects embraced in the foregoing Report.

J. B. McFerrin, from the Committee on Revisals, presented the following Report, (No. 3,) which was read and laid on the table, according to rule:—

The Committee further report in part, that they have considered the following subjects referred to them:

1. The Resolution of Bros. Murrah and Dorman, asking the arrangement of "the business of Quarterly Meeting Conferences under definite Questions." Your Committee report that they regard the arrangement inexpedient.

2. The preamble and resolutions of Bros. Hicks and Hughes, asking for the insertion of rules authorizing presiding Elders, and the Bishops, in certain cases, *to refer* to the annual and general conferences in the trial of preachers. Your committee report unfavourably.

3. On the paper submitted by Bro. Evans, in regard to the relation of local preachers and church-members in certain cases, report the resolutions, *viz.*:

*Resolved*, 1. That there be added to the Discipline, sec. 2, chap. 4, p. 93, the following question and answer:—

"Qu. 3. What shall be done with a local elder, deacon, or preacher in our church, who removes from one circuit or station to another, either with or without a certificate of his membership, and does not connect himself with the church at the place to which he removes?

"Ans. He shall be held responsible for his conduct to the Quarterly Meeting Conference of the circuit or station from which he has removed, for twelve months ensuing; after which time, should it appear that he has not united with the church, he shall be regarded as having withdrawn from it, and it shall be so entered on the church records."

*Resolved*, 2. That the following be added to sec. 3, chap. 4, p. 98:—

"Qu. 3. What shall be done with a member of our church, who removes from one circuit or station to another, either with or without a certificate of membership, and does not connect himself with the church at the place to which he removes?

“Ans. 1. The preacher in charge of the circuit or station to which he removes, shall, so soon as he is informed that he is within the bounds of his charge, call upon him, in person, for his certificate, and also learn from him the society or class to which he desires to be attached.

“2. In the mean time he shall be held responsible for his conduct to the society from which he removed, for twelve months ensuing; and if it shall appear that he has not united with the church, he shall be regarded as having withdrawn from it, and it shall be so entered on the church records.”

4. The resolution of Bros. Speer and Rogers, asking the committee to report rules for the government of annual conferences in the transaction of business, *etc.*, has been considered. Your committee deem it inexpedient for this Conference to take any action on the subject.

5. The Committee have had under consideration the changes proposed in the resolution of H. A. C. Walker, and report in favour of the following, which they accordingly recommend to the favourable action of this Conference:—

(1.) On page 31, strike out the sixth answer to the fourth question, third section, second chapter, and conform the notation of the remaining answers to this omission.

(2.) On page 101, tenth line from bottom, put “hast” for “hath,” in the small edition of the Discipline.

(3.) On page 172, omit the word “such,” where it occurs the second time in the second paragraph.

The other items referred to in Bro. Walker’s resolution have been, or will be, embraced in the reports on other resolutions, or are regarded as subjects not proper to be acted upon by this Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

J. B. McFERRIN, *Chairman.*

*St. Louis, May 9, 1850.*

L. M. Lee, chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, presented the following Report:—

The Committee on Itinerancy, to whom was referred the subject of “the practicability of devising some plan by which the labours and influence of local preachers may be rendered more

available to the Church," with instructions to "report the result of their inquiries by rule or otherwise," having had the same under consideration, beg leave to report:—

That, after mature reflection, we deem it unadvisable to make any change in our Disciplinary rules and regulations upon the subject; believing, as we do, that a wise and prudent administration of those already existing, will be better calculated to effect the desired object.

Respectfully submitted,

LEROY M. LEE.

S. Patton and J. E. Evans presented an amendment to the Report, and a motion of H. H. Kavanaugh to amend it, by adding "so far as practicable," was laid on the table. The amendment was adopted; and, on motion of W. Winans, the 15th rule was suspended to allow of present action on the Report as amended; which, on motion of A. L. P. Green, was adopted, as follows:—

"Insert in the Discipline, as Answer 15 to Question 2, sect. 7, chapter 2, page 45, the following:—

"It shall be his duty, as early as practicable after reaching his circuit or station, to ascertain from the local ministers of his charge, what portion of their Sabbath time they are, respectively, willing to labour, in connection with him, in supplying the people with the ministry of the word; and after consulting their views on the subject, it shall be his duty to sketch a general plan of ministerial labour for the year, and to avail himself of the aid which they are willing to afford in enlarging the work, forming new societies, and receiving probationers into the Church; provided always, that such societies and probationers shall be duly reported to him, to be received into the regular work, or recognized in his pastoral charge."

Great interest was given to the discussion of the foregoing question by the remarks of Bishop Soule, who approved of the amendment.

C. F. Deems, from the Committee on Sunday-schools, presented the following Report, which was read, and laid on the table for the present:—

1. The Committee on Sunday-schools beg leave to report, that they have had under consideration the recommendation of seve-

ral conferences to establish a Sunday-school Department in the Book Concern, and to publish a Sunday-school Journal. The Committee are unanimously of the opinion, that the wants of our Church demand such an arrangement, and therefore respectfully recommend to the General Conference, the appointment of an Editor, to be located at whichever of our publication offices the Conference may deem most appropriate, whose duty it shall be to edit a periodical devoted to our Sunday-school interests, and also to edit our Sunday-school publications generally.

2. The Committee have also considered the resolution presented by the Rev. F. E. Pitts and S. Anthony, instructing them to inquire into the "expediency of forming and encouraging a general system of Family Sunday-schools amongst us." The Committee do not see that any *system* can be devised at present; but they lay before the Conference the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That the General Conference instruct our preachers to recommend, everywhere, to heads of families connected with our church, to form their children and servants into Sunday-schools, in all such places as are removed from our regular Sunday-schools.

3. The Committee strongly recommend the formation of a Sunday-school Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; but because of the shortness of the time allotted, they have not been able to digest any practicable plan. If the Conference concludes to form such a Union, we recommend that a much larger committee be appointed. The importance of this matter seems to demand the exercise of the wisest discretion of brethren from all parts of our work.

C. F. DEEMS, *Chairman*.

The Bishop then called for petitions and memorials.

E. W. Sehon presented a resolution of the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the M. E. Church, South, approving of the official course of the Secretary and Treasurer of said Society, which, at his request was read to the Conference.

T. Maddin presented a memorial from certain persons of Louisville, Ky., in regard to Church Finance, which was referred to the Committee on Finance.



C. Richardson offered resolutions approving the erection of a church in Washington, Texas, to be called Ruter Church, in memory of Dr. Martin Ruter, first Superintendent of Methodist Missions in Texas, and whose remains are deposited in that place; and recommending the enterprise to the liberality of the community. The resolutions were adopted.

On motion of the chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, J. E. Evans was put on that committee, in place of Isaac Boring, he being still sick.

On motion of W. A. Smith, the Financial Plan of the Virginia Conference was referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion of W. Winans, the Committee on Episcopacy was instructed to inquire into the expediency of changing the mode of trying a Bishop.

T. H. Capers, delegate from the St. Louis Conference, having been called away on account of sickness in his family, J. Mitchell, reserve delegate from said Conference, took his place.

The following Resolution was presented, and lost:—

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Books and Periodicals be instructed to take into consideration the subject, and to report a Plan, if they think proper, by which the necessity, (if it exists,) may be done away, requiring the Editors of our Periodicals to visit the sessions of our annual conferences.

W. P. RATCLIFFE,  
S. W. SPEER.

The following Resolution was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals inquire into the expediency of striking out the answer to question 2, Chapter 4, Section 1, and of devising some other method of trying a Bishop accused of immorality, in the interval of the General Conference.

J. EARLY,  
J. E. EVANS.

The amendment to the Report on Boundaries, laid on the table yesterday, was then taken up, and the vote suspending the 15th rule during its discussion, was, on motion of J. B. McFerrin, reconsidered.

The question was then discussed by H. G. Leigh *against*, and

A. M. Shipp *for*, its adoption. The Report of the Committee proposed, that—

“The Western and Southern boundaries of the North Carolina Conference be so changed, that the *former* shall be the top of the Blue Ridge, the west line of Caldwell county to the first waters of the Catawba, thence with the Catawba river to the South Carolina state line; the *latter*, with the South Carolina state line to the Ocean.” The amendment of H. A. C. Walker proposed to leave the boundary line between the South and North Carolina conferences unaltered.

M. Brock offered the following substitute:—

“That the boundaries of the North Carolina Conference be as now laid down in the Discipline, with this change:—Strike out all after the word ‘Rowan,’ and insert ‘the Yadkin and Pedee rivers, and the state line to the Ocean.’”

On motion of J. E. Evans, the session was protracted until one o’clock.

A motion of A. L. P. Green to lay the substitute on the table, was lost. The vote was then taken on the substitute, and it was adopted.

On motion of W. Winans, the vote was reconsidered.

W. Murrah and B. M. Drake, moved indefinite postponement, which motion was lost, the vote standing 46 to 47.

On motion of J. Hamilton, the session was protracted till the question should be taken. It was then put, and decided in the affirmative, the vote standing 48 for the substitute, and 44 against it.

The following Paper was then presented, read, and on motion of W. Winans, laid on the table.

Whereas, there appears in evidence before the General Conference, that much opposition exists on the part of the ministers of the South Carolina Conference, and especially on the part of the members particularly concerned, to a transfer of the North Carolina portion of the South Carolina Conference to the territory of the North Carolina Conference, therefore,

*Resolved*, That the privilege is hereby granted to the preachers who may, at the next sessions of the conferences concerned, be

found within the territory aforesaid, to adhere, at pleasure, either to the South or the North Carolina Conference; and that the same privilege be granted to the societies included in the same territory.

C. BETTS,

A. M. SHIPP.

The Chair announced the committee appointed to confer with the Bishops on the subjects embraced in the Report of the Commissioners presented to the Conference this morning. It consists of Messrs. Patton, Boyle, Truslow, McAlister, Lewis, Richardson, Anderson, Sehon, McFerrin, McMahan, Winans, Doty, Murrah, Patton, Smith, Nicholson, Wightman, Pierce, and Smith.

The Conference then adjourned, with the benediction by the Bishop.

*Friday Morning, May 10.*

Conference met, with Bishop Andrew in the chair. Religious services were conducted by Lovick Pierce.

The Minutes were read, corrected, and approved.

The chair was then taken by Bishop Paine.

On motion of W. Winans, petitions and memorials are not to be called for, after to-morrow morning's session.

The Committee on Missions presented Report No. 3, which, on motion of J. E. Evans, was adopted, as follows:—

The Committee on Missions present the following as their Third Report:—

*Resolved*, That having had under consideration the Annual Reports of the Parent Board of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, we are of opinion that the business of that important department of our work has been conducted with prudence, fidelity, and ability, by those to whom it has been intrusted for the last four years.

Respectfully submitted,

S. A. LATTA, *Chairman*.

L. M. Lee, chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, presented a Report, embracing a preamble and resolutions, which were separately adopted.

E. Wadsworth moved a reconsideration, which called forth considerable discussion, in which Brothers Reneau, Winans, Doggett, Ralston, and Kavanaugh took part, opposing the first resolution, and Brothers McFerrin, Green, and others, sustaining it. The vote on reconsideration stood 44 to 47: it was accordingly lost. The Report was adopted, as follows:

The Committee on Itinerancy, to whom was referred so much of the Address of the Bishops as relates to the practice of petitioning for preachers, opposition to transfers, &c., after having had the subject under consideration, beg leave to recommend the following resolutions for adoption by this Conference:—

*Resolved*, That the practice of petitioning for Preachers, either by official boards or otherwise, is contrary to the spirit of our economy, and tends greatly to embarrass the itinerant system; we therefore urge our Bishops, preachers, and people to give no countenance to this practice in future.

*Resolved*, That we greatly deplore the evil complained of in reference to transfers from one Conference to another, both on account of the spirit which it involves, and its opposition to a fundamental law of Methodism; for, while it has been the general usage to station the preachers within the bounds of the Conferences of which they are members, still it is the genius of our system, and the law of our Church, that the Bishops, as general superintendents of the Church, make such disposition of the itinerant preachers as in their judgment will best serve the whole Church.

*Resolved*, That this Conference regards any effort on the part of the Annual Conference to control the Bishops in the proper exercise of the power to transfer preachers from one Conference to another, as highly improper; and any want of appreciation of a preacher transferred, on that account, as unbecoming and unkind; and for the honour of Christianity and of our beloved Methodism, it is hoped such cases have been of rare occurrence, and may not be repeated.

*Resolved*, That our Bishops be, and hereby are, requested to give no countenance to a spirit so pernicious in its tendencies, but continue to supply the whole work as they may deem best.

LEROY M. LEE, *Chairman*.

Wm. A. Smith, chairman of the Committee on Books and Periodicals, presented the following Report, which was read and laid on the table, according to rule :—

The Committee on Books and Periodicals report, in part, as follows :—

We recommend that the first five paragraphs, section 8, page 190, be stricken out of the Discipline, and the following inserted in their place :

1. There shall be two general Book Depositories, and a general Agent for each ; one of which shall be *east*, the other *west* of the mountains.

2. The Agent appointed for the Eastern Depository shall take charge of all the interests of the Book Agency, east of the Blue Ridge ; and the Western Agent shall take charge of all similar interests appertaining to the Book Agency, west of said line.

3. The Agents shall have authority to *publish* or *purchase* books, as they may find to be most for the interest of their respective Concerns.

4. A *Sunday-school Journal* shall be published at the Eastern Depository, and the editor of the said Journal shall be the editor of Sunday-school books.

5. One at least of the weekly papers shall be published at the Western Concern.

### CONFERENCE DEPOSITORIES.

When any one or more of the Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, shall give notice to either of the Agents of the General Depositories, that they desire to establish a *Conference Depository*, he shall furnish them books on the following terms and conditions :—

1. The Annual Conference shall appoint a Book Committee, consisting of *five* persons belonging to their own body. This Committee shall make an estimate of the *amount* and *kind* of books which may be required. They shall furnish the agent of the General Depository with satisfactory assurances that the person selected by them is a suitable person to take charge of

such depository; and a report of the state and condition of the depository shall be made by *them* to the Agent of the General Depository *every three months*.

The Committee shall require of each person in charge of Conference depositories, a settlement of his account with the Agent every three months, and that he pay over to them all moneys received on sales made; and, also, that he turn over to them all orders filled, and all notes received for books; and said Committee shall promptly remit all moneys so collected, and hold the orders and notes subject to the Agent's direction.

If any person in charge of a Conference depository shall refuse or neglect such settlement, or fail to pay over the money received by him, it shall be the duty of the Committee to proceed at once to a final settlement with said keeper of a depository, and replace him by another person, or wind it up, as they judge best.

The Agent of the General Depository shall furnish the Conference depositories with books at wholesale prices, provided, that the committee making orders for Conference depositories shall be regarded as occupying the same relation to the agent from whom the books may be ordered, both as to time and terms, as that of all other purchasers, except in the books of our own publication, on which they shall be allowed a discount of forty per cent.

Whenever a preacher shall be more than eight months in arrears, *dating from the time of filling his order*, for books obtained from any of the Conference depositories, his credit shall be stopped until such arrearages are discharged.

The annual conferences thus establishing book depositories, shall be regarded as morally bound to protect the General Depository against loss.

WM. A. SMITH, *Chairman*.

On motion of T. Crowder, the following Report of the Committee appointed to audit the accounts of the Assistant Treasurer of the Missionary Society, at Charleston, was adopted:—

The undersigned, having been appointed by the Missionary Board of the M. E. Church, South, a committee to audit the accounts of the Assistant Treasurer, at Charleston, have attended to that duty, and, upon careful examination of the accounts

aforesaid, with the accompanying vouchers, beg respectfully to report, that they find them all correct.

E. W. SEHON,  
E. STEVENSON.

*St. Louis, May 3, 1850.*

J. B. McFerrin, from the Committee on Revisals, presented the following reports, (Nos. 4 and 5,) which were read and laid on the table, according to rule:—

#### No. 4.

The Committee on Revisals report the following emendations of the Discipline to the Conference, and recommend their adoption:—

Page 32, c. 2, sec. 3, last line but one in note: put “Bishop” for “Conference.”

P. 41, c. 2, s. 7, question 1, ans. 2: omit all after “quarterly.”

P. 42, c. 2, s. 7, q. 1, ans. 11: omit it.

P. 43, c. 2, s. 7, q. 2, ans. 3, 5: omit both answers, and change the notation of the rest.

P. 44, c. 2, s. 7, q. 2, ans. 7: for “our,” put “Methodist Episcopal Church, South.”

P. 45, c. 2, s. 7, q. 2, ans. 14: for “meeting,” put “love-feast.”

P. 45, 46, c. 2, s. 8, q. 1, ans. 3: omit all after “by,” to “removed,” and put in its place, “a vote of the majority.”

P. 47, c. 2, s. 8, q. 3, ans.: omit “of the bands.”

P. 48, c. 2, s. 8, q. 3, ans.: instead of the paragraph beginning, “The Conference may then,” put “If he give satisfactory answers to these questions, the Conference, by a vote of the majority, may admit him into full connection.”

P. 48, c. 2, s. 8, q. 4, ans. 2: substitute it by, “To meet the societies and classes.”

P. 52, c. 2, s. 11, q. 1: after “Canada,” put “or any of the conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, North.” In the answer to that question, omit, “from either the British, Irish, or Canada conference.”

P. 54, c. 2, s. 11, q. 2, ans.: put this paragraph after “Lord:” “In the interval of the Annual Conference, such ministers may be received by a quarterly conference, and may preach as licentiates, but shall not exercise the peculiar functions of deacons

or elders until their orders shall be recognised by the Annual Conference. After such reception, their orders may be recognized, or they may be admitted into the travelling connection, but not without the recommendation of the quarterly conference."

P. 56, c. 2, s. 13, q. 2, ans. 2: omit, "either instituted or prudential. 1. The instituted are."

P. 57, c. 2, s. 13, q. 2, ans.: omit what follows after "it," down to "God."

P. 58, c. 2, s. 13, q. 2, ans.: omit the paragraph notations, "1, 2, 3, 4."

P. 76, c. 3, s. 3, ans. 5: for "society," put "church."

P. 76, c. 3, s. 5, ans. 2: omit it.

P. 77, c. 3, s. 6, q. 1, ans. 5: put "2 Cor. xiii. 14," after "benediction."

P. 78, 79, c. 3, s. 6, q. 2: omit answers 7, 13, 14, 15, 16.

P. 81—84, c. 3, s. 9: omit the section.

P. 93, c. 4, s. 3, q. 1, ans. 2: instead of "a breach of our rules," put "said neglect."

P. 100: instead of the rubric as it is, put "During the reading of these sentences, the stewards shall take up the collection for the poor."

P. 107, c. 5, s. 2: instead of the rubric as it is, say, "The minister shall use the following, or some other suitable exhortation." Instead of "None can enter into the kingdom of God, except he be regenerate, and born anew of water and of the Holy Ghost," say, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." In the same paragraph, omit the word "thing."

P. 108, c. 5, s. 2, line 4: omit, "and by the baptism of thy well-beloved Son Jesus Christ in the river Jordan, didst sanctify water for this holy sacrament."

P. 110: instead of "None can enter into the kingdom of God except he be regenerate, and born anew of water and of the Holy Ghost," say, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

P. 111: instead of "that *they*, coming to thy holy baptism, may receive remission of *their* sins, by spiritual regeneration," say, "now to be baptized."



P. 112, c. 5, s. 2: instead of "may be born again, and," put "being born again, may."

P. 116, c. 5, s. 3: omit all about the *banns*, *viz.*, the rubric and form of asking the banns.

P. 124, c. 5, s. 4: in the Collect, omit "children;" put "inherit" for "receive," and "foundation" for "beginning."

P. 125, c. 5, s. 4: conform the benediction to 2 Cor. xiii. 14.

P. 151, c. 6, s. 3, line 19: omit "by this imposition of our hands."

P. 195, 196, Part 2, s. 9: omit the section on slavery.

J. B. McFERRIN, *Chairman*.

May 10, 1850.

### No. 5.

The Committee on Revisals report, that they have considered the resolution or memorial of the Mississippi Conference, asking a rule regulating the seating of the congregations in our houses of worship, and they regard any legislation on the subject inexpedient at present.

On the resolution of Bro. Early, asking the consideration of the propriety of a new rule for the trial of a Bishop in the interval of a General Conference, your committee report favourably; but, being pressed for time, they do not feel at liberty to report any specific rules regulating a subject so grave and important, but refer the question to the wisdom of the General Conference.

J. B. McFERRIN, *Chairman*.

St. Louis, May 10, 1850.

The following resolution was then adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Itinerancy be, and they are hereby, instructed to report to this Conference, for the use of the Commissioners, the state of the vote of each Conference within our bounds, on the alteration of the Sixth restriction, as provided for in the Plan of Separation, by the General Conference in 1844.

J. E. EVANS,  
E. WADSWORTH.

The Report of the Committee on Episcopacy, No. 1, was taken up, and, on motion of W. Winans, was recommitted.

Report No. 2, of the same Committee, was taken up, and, on motion of W. Winans, was adopted, as follows :—

The Committee on Episcopacy have had before them abundant evidence of the fact, that the Episcopal work in our Church is quite too great to be performed by the present number of Bishops, without subjecting them to excessive labour and much peril of health and safety. There are but three of our Superintendents who can be at all relied on for Episcopal work, and two of these are sufficiently honoured by years and toil to recommend them to some degree of favour, and all of them have been more or less affected by the weight of their labours during the past four years.

It is with sentiments and sympathies wholly inexpressible, that we refer, in this connection, to the case of our venerable Senior Superintendent, Bishop Soule. Your committee cannot hide from themselves, or from the General Conference, the mournful fact, that the day is not distant when this strong pillar and bright light of our Zion will be removed to another part of the Lord's Building; yet, in view of detaining him amongst us as long as the Lord will, and in view of rendering the evening of his useful life as comfortable as possible, the committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution, to wit :

*Resolved*, That it is with sentiments of deepest sympathy and sincere regret, that we are apprized of the increasing afflictions and sufferings of our Senior Superintendent; and while we would express our gratitude to God for the gift of a minister so eminently useful to the Church and the world as our said aged Bishop is and has been; and while we assure the Bishop himself of the high appreciation in which his useful life and labours are held by this General Conference, we would, at the same time, most earnestly and respectfully advise and request him to desist from all labour, except such as in his own judgment may be promotive of his health and comfort.

Respectfully submitted.

B. T. CROUCH, *Chairman*.

*St. Louis, Mo., May 7, 1850.*

Report No. 3, of the Committee on Episcopacy, was taken up, and amended by changing the number *two* to *one*, in the Resolution, and the Report was adopted as follows :—

The Committee on Episcopacy, having considered that part of the Address of the Bishops which was referred to them, in connection with such information on the same subject as they have been able to gather from other sources, are fully satisfied that the interests of the Church imperiously demand, that the Episcopal Board should be strengthened; and we therefore recommend the adoption of the following Resolution, to wit:

*Resolved*, That it is the duty of this General Conference to elect, and the duty of the proper authorities to consecrate, at least one additional Bishop.

Respectfully submitted.

B. T. CROUCH, *Chairman*.

*St. Louis, Mo., May 7, 1850.*

The hour of adjournment having nearly arrived, on motion of A. L. P. Green, the session was protracted five minutes.

The question of meeting at 3 o'clock this afternoon having been decided in the affirmative, it was moved that the election of a Bishop be the business of the afternoon session. During the discussion of this question, the time to which the session had been protracted having arrived, Conference adjourned, with the benediction by the Bishop.

### *Friday Afternoon, May 10.*

Conference met according to adjournment, Bishop Paine in the chair. Religious services were conducted by P. P. Smith.

The question under discussion at the time of adjournment this morning, was carried, the Conference resolving to enter at once upon the election of a Bishop.

J. T. Heard moved a reconsideration of the vote to elect but one Bishop.

H. G. Leigh moved to lay that motion on the table.

The Conference did not concur in either motion.

The Conference then proceeded to ballot for the election of a Bishop; and, on motion of H. H. Kavanaugh, the sick members were waited upon in their rooms for their votes.

The whole number of votes cast was 100, of which number H. B. Bascom received 47; J. Boyle, 14; G. F. Pierce, 14; J.

Early, 10; W. Winans, 8; E. Wadsworth, 4; R. Alexander, 1; W. Murrah, 1; and S. Patton, 1.

As 51 were necessary to an election, there was no election in the first balloting.

The Conference proceeded to ballot a second time, and, on motion of S. W. Speer, the votes of the sick members were allowed to be cast by proxy.

The whole number of votes cast was 100; of which number H. B. Bascom received 59; J. Boyle, 14; G. F. Pierce, 13; J. Early, 10; W. Winans, 4.

As 51 votes were sufficient for an election, the Bishop announced, that H. B. Bascom was duly elected Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

The Conference then adjourned, with prayer by B. M. Drake.

*Saturday Morning, May 11.*

Conference met, Bishop Capers in the chair. The customary devotions were led by W. Winans.

The minutes were read and approved.

Bishop Andrew then took the chair.

G. W. D. Harris, chairman of the Committee on Boundaries, presented Report No. 3, of that Committee, which was read, and, on motion of J. Early, the 15th Rule was suspended, and the Report was adopted, as follows:—

The Committee on Boundaries beg leave to report the following Resolution:—

*Resolved*, That the boundary between the *Holston* and *Georgia* conferences, be the Tennessee river, from the Northern terminus of the Lookout mountain, to the Northern terminus of the Raccoon mountain; and that that part of the Murphy Mission now in the Georgia Conference, inhabited by the Cherokee Indians, be transferred to the Holston Conference.

G. W. D. HARRIS, *Chairman*.

*St. Louis, Mo., May 10, 1850.*

Bishop Capers presented a communication from Thos. Waring, executor of the estate of Mrs. Eliza Lucilla Simons, late of South Carolina, containing an extract from the will of said Mrs. Simons, bequeathing “the sum of one thousand dollars to the General Conference of the M. E. Church, South, in trust that the said

legacy shall be invested in a permanent fund, the interest of which to be applied to the support of the ministry of said Church." The communication was laid on the table for the present.

On motion of J. Early, the Committee on Itinerancy was instructed to inquire whether any member of an annual conference has been deposed from his ministerial office for immoral conduct, or otherwise, and yet has been retained in the membership of the Church; and if so, whether the act is consistent with our Constitution and Laws.

At this point the Chair announced, with great solemnity, that our brother, Isaac Boring, delegate of the Georgia Conference, was no more. The Chair testified, from personal knowledge, to the excellent Christian character of our deceased brother.

Bishop Capers rose with great feeling, and stated that he visited Brother Boring on Thursday last, and found him in great restlessness of body, but in perfect peace of mind. The Bishop prayed with him, and felt very near to God. Brother Boring was evidently absorbed in devotion. The Bishop remarked that there was no occasion to sorrow in regard to the death of our brother, except in reference to survivors, as none who knew Brother Boring, could doubt that he had finished his course with joy.

J. Early expressed a wish to move an adjournment out of respect to our deceased brother, and his colleagues of the Georgia Conference, unless the latter should think such action unnecessary, as a testimonial of the high regard in which Brother Boring was held by this Conference.

Bishop Andrew and J. E. Evans, on behalf of the Georgia delegation, considered such action unnecessary, and, under existing circumstances, inexpedient.

On motion of B. M. Drake, the Conference agreed to spend a short time in devotion.

Bishop Capers offered an appropriate and fervent prayer, embodying thanksgiving to God for the abundant grace vouchsafed to our lamented brother, and earnest supplications in behalf of his bereaved family.

On motion of J. E. Evans, a committee of five was appointed to superintend the funeral of Brother Boring, which is to take place to-morrow morning, at 8½ o'clock. The Bishop appointed

S. Anthony, J. Boyle, A. H. Mitchell, H. A. C. Walker, and T. W. Dorman.

On motion of A. Munroe, a committee of three was appointed to report a Preamble and Resolutions expressive of our feelings in regard to this mournful event.

The Bishop appointed G. F. Pierce, A. Munroe, and E. W. Schon, on that committee.

The Report of the Committee on Books and Periodicals was then taken up and read.

A. L. P. Green, as a minority of one, presented another Report, as a substitute, which was read, and, after considerable discussion, on motion of J. E. Evans, the subject was laid on the table.

The following Resolution was then adopted:—

*Resolved*, That we continue our present system of Book Agency, with the addition of one Editor, who shall be the Editor of Books.

A. L. P. GREEN,  
G. F. PIERCE.

On motion of J. B. McFerrin, leave of absence was granted to J. F. Hughes, on account of the illness of his wife.

W. A. Smith presented the Exhibit of the Richmond Christian Advocate, which was referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

On motion of J. Early, the Chair was requested to appoint some one in the place of J. H. Davis, in the Committee on the American Bible Society, he being sick.

The committee appointed to superintend the funeral of Brother Boring, made their Report, which was adopted, as follows:

The Committee appointed to make arrangements for the funeral of Brother Isaac Boring, deceased, met, and called Dr. A. H. Mitchell to the chair, and T. W. Dorman, secretary.

The committee agreed on the following order:—

1. That the corpse be brought to the Centenary church, followed by the members of the General Conference in procession, when carriages shall be in waiting to convey the brethren in attendance to the Wesleyan cemetery, the place of interment, after the religious services are closed.

2. That Bishop Capers be requested to open the services at the church, with reading the Holy Scriptures, singing, and prayer; that Bishop Andrew preach the Funeral Sermon, and Bishop Paine read the Burial Service at the grave.

3. The following brethren were appointed as Pall-bearers:—

H. H. Kavanaugh, Ky. Conf.	T. W. Dorman, Ala. Conf.
A. Munroe, Mo. Conf.	T. Crowder, Va. Conf.
A. L. P. Green, Tenn. Conf.	H. A. C. Walker, S.C. Conf.
B. M. Drake, Miss. Conf.	P. P. Smith, Fla. Conf.

The following programme was ordered:—

1. A carriage with the Bishops.
2. Two carriages with the Pall-bearers.
3. The Corpse.
4. Delegates of the *Georgia* Conference.
5. Members of the General Conference.
6. Citizens and others in attendance.

*Resolved*, That a collection be taken up on Monday, in the Conference room, to defray the expenses of the funeral.

A. H. MITCHELL, *Chairman*.

T. W. DORMAN, *Secretary*.

The Committee appointed to prepare a Preamble and Resolutions, expressing the sense of the Conference on this mournful event, presented their Report, which was adopted, as follows:—

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God to remove by death the Rev. Isaac Boring, a Delegate to this body from the Georgia Annual Conference; and whereas, the circumstances of his decease are all of the most painful interest, involving our deepest Christian sympathies—demanding a pious and submissive acknowledgment of the inscrutable agency of Him whose will is supreme, and whose goodness is infinite, and calling upon us to watch and be sober under the tuition of this sudden and melancholy demonstration of the vanity of human hopes, and of the awful truth, that “in the midst of life we are in death”—

*Resolved*, Therefore, That we humbly bow to this afflictive dispensation, but “mourn not as those who have no hope.”

*Resolved*, That we condole with the family of our departed brother, and heartily commend the widow and her orphan chil-

dren to the tender mercies of our Heavenly Father, whose grace can alleviate the pangs of bereavement, and cheer the mourner with the hope of reunion.

*Resolved*, That a copy of this preamble and resolutions be forwarded to the family of the deceased, thus assuring them of our sympathy in their distress, and pledging ourselves to remember them at the mercy seat.

G. F. PIERCE, *Chairman*.

The communication presented by Bishop Capers, concerning the bequest of Mrs. E. L. Simons, laid on the table this morning, was taken up, and the following Preamble and Resolutions were adopted:—

Whereas, a communication has been presented to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, through Bishop Capers, from Thomas Waring, Esq., of the city of Charleston, South Carolina, respecting a legacy left for the purpose of sustaining a Methodist minister at a Missionary Church within the bounds of the Cooper River Mission, in the Conference aforesaid,—Therefore,

*Resolved*, That Francis R. Shackleford and Clarence A. Graesser, Esqs., of Charleston, S. C., be, and they are hereby, appointed, under the authority of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, as commissioners to receive from the executor of the estate of Mrs. Eliza L. Simons, deceased, the legacy left to the Church in her last will, and to fund it for the purposes specified in the will aforesaid.

W. M. WIGHTMAN,  
C. BETTS.

E. Stevenson presented the case of a bequest of the Rev. J. W. Bowman, to “the African Missionary Society of the M. E. Church, South, if there be one: if not, say, North;” asking advice in the matter. The subject, after some discussion, was laid on the table.

On motion of J. B. McFerrin, the session was extended fifteen minutes.

The following resolution was then adopted:—

*Resolved, unanimously*, By the Delegates of the several An-



nual Conferences, of the M. E. Church, South, in General Conference assembled, that we fully and cordially approve the action of the Commissioners of said Church, in bringing suit for the recovery of an equitable share of the Book Concern and Chartered Fund of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as pledged in the Plan of Separation, adopted by the General Conference of 1844; and that said Commissioners, H. B. Bascom, A. L. P. Green, and C. B. Parsons, be requested and instructed, and also furnished with the necessary means, to prosecute the claim with vigour, until the final decision of the Supreme Court of the United States be had in the suits now pending.

*St. Louis, Mo., May 11, 1850.*

Moved by W. A. Smith, J. Boyle, J. B. McFerrin, W. M. Wightman, G. F. Pierce, Wm. McMahon, W. E. Doty, C. Richardson, P. P. Smith, W. H. Anderson, S. Patton.—Seconded by W. Murrah, B. M. Drake, W. L. McAllister, E. W. Sehon, John F. Truslow, D. B. Nicholson, W. Patton, and W. C. Lewis.

On motion of J. E. Evans, the session was protracted fifteen minutes.

On motion of J. B. McFerrin, the Conference took up the subject of fixing the seat of the next session of the General Conference.

On motion of A. L. P. Green, it was agreed to determine the question by nomination and election. Several places were put in nomination; but before the vote was taken, on motion of C. F. Deems, the Conference adjourned, the Bishop pronouncing the benediction.

## ORDINATION OF BISHOP BASCOM.

The ordination of Henry Bidleman Bascom, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, took place in the Centenary Church, St. Louis, Mo., on Sunday afternoon, May 12, 1850.

After a Sermon by the Bishop elect, on glorying in the cross, Gal. vi. 14, Bishop Andrew proceeded with the ordination service, by reading the Collect. Bishop Capers read the Epistle,—Bishop Paine the Gospel.

The Bishop elect was presented by John Early, of the Virginia Conference, and Lovick Pierce, of the Georgia Conference.

Bishop Andrew continued the service to the end of the prayer preceding the imposition of hands.

The venerable Senior Superintendent, Bishop Soule, who was brought to the church in great feebleness, took the lead in the laying on of hands, though scarcely able to pronounce the formula.

Bishops Andrew, Capers, and Paine, together with John Early and Lovick Pierce, Elders, united in the imposition of hands. The Bible was presented by Bishop Andrew, and the service was concluded by Bishop Paine.

*Monday Morning, May 13.*

Conference met, Bishop Andrew in the chair. Religious services by J. Hamilton.

The Minutes were read and approved.

Bishop Paine then took the chair.

L. Pierce presented his Report as delegate of the General Conference of the M. E. Church, South, to the General Conference of the M. E. Church, held at Pittsburgh, May, 1848, which was read, and, on motion of E. Stevenson, was accepted. It is as follows:—

To the Bishops and Members of the General Conference of the M. E. Church, South:

*Dear Brethren:*—At your session in Petersburg, Va., May, 1846, moved, as I believe, by the true spirit of Christian brotherhood, you resolved to send a delegate to the General Conference of the M. E. Church, in Pittsburgh, in May, 1848, to convey to them your Christian salutations, and through him to propose to them the establishment of fraternal relations and intercourse.

This important trust you confided to me. In obedience to your will, and in conformity to the plan of duty assigned me, I proceeded to Pittsburgh, and reached the city on the second day of the session. Unfortunately, no letter of introduction or official testimonial of any kind had been furnished me; and, of course, I felt my informal condition one of personal embarrassment. But understanding that the Conference had created a committee of forty-six on the state of the Church, and that the Plan of Separation adopted at the General Conference of 1844, under the provisions of which the Church, South, had acted, would be the subject of their first investigation and report, I judged it best to waive all feelings of informality, and lay before the Conference, at once, the object of my mission, and the fact of my presence in the city, not knowing but that the committee might feel it a duty to hear from the South, especially as they were detailed to attend to a question involving your rights, as certainly as it did their own. Accordingly, I sent in, by a member of the Conference, the following communication:—

“To the Bishops and Members of the General Conference of the M. E. Church :—

“*Reverend and Dear Brethren* :—The General Conference of the M. E. Church, South, at their session in May, 1846, appointed me their delegate to bear to you their Christian salutation, and through me to offer to you the establishment of fraternal relations and intercourse between us, as two legitimate portions of the great Wesleyan family. And as my state of mind must be one of painful suspense until your will shall be declared, I respectfully ask your earliest attention to the object of my mission.

“Very respectfully, yours, in the unity of Wesleyan Methodism,

“L. PIERCE,

“Delegate from the M. E. Church, South.”

The Committee, in accordance with my earnest request, made a speedy report, which was acted upon with great unanimity. The Report was unfavourable to my reception, and was attempted to be justified upon the ground of “questions and difficulties.” I was not able to see then, nor am I now, how that body of ministers knew but that I could have answered these questions, and removed or remedied the difficulties, if an opportunity had been given. It is true, that some of the delegates did question me in the streets, and in the walks of social life, as to what my powers were—whether they were general or special. To these inquiries I gave no direct answer: I did not regard myself sent there to canvass the subject with individuals outside the Conference, but to represent you as your accredited agent in behalf of the M. E. Church, South; and, therefore, I could not allow any one but myself to define what I could, or could not do, under your commission. I had one or two warm invitations to pass the bar, and be seated, and feel myself at home; but those honours were evidently designed for me individually, and not as your representative; and therefore they were all declined. Notwithstanding my rejection, and the opinion of many of my friends, that I ought to have left in the next boat, my convictions were, that it would be better to remain a short time, and see what after-reflection would bring to light. I did so, and am still glad of it. Glad, because Brother Green had the forecast to think

the Journal of 1846 might be important to them as Commissioners, or to me as your delegate, and took it with him to Pittsburgh; and as there had been some allusion to informal appearance there, as a ground of declining to act with me, it was determined to send in an extract from the Journal, appointing me a delegate to bear to that General Conference your disposition to establish and perpetuate friendly relations with the M. E. Church. This was done, certified by Bishop Soule. This extract was accompanied by the following communication:—

*“Reverend and Dear Brethren:—*I have received two extracts from your Journal of the 4th and 5th instant. From these extracts I learn you decline receiving me in my proper character, as the accredited delegate of the M. E. Church, South, and only invite me to a seat within the bar as due to me on account of my private and personal merits. These considerations I shall appreciate, and will reciprocate them in all the private and social walks of life. But within the bar of the General Conference I can only be known in my official character.

*“*You will therefore regard this communication as final on the part of the M. E. Church, South. She can never renew the offer of fraternal relations between the two great bodies of Wesleyan Methodists in the United States. But the proposition can be renewed at any time, either now, or hereafter, by the M. E. Church. And if ever made upon the basis of the Plan of Separation, as adopted by the General Conference of 1844, the Church, South, will cordially entertain the proposition.

*“*With sentiments of deep regret, and with feelings of disappointed hopes, I am yours, in Christian fellowship,

*“*L. PIERCE,

*“*Delegate from the M. E. Church, South.

*“*Pittsburgh, May 9, 1848.”

Thus ended the well-intended commission from your body. Upon this noble effort I verily believe the smile of divine approval will rest, when the heavenly bodies themselves will have ceased to shine. This offer of love, of ingress and egress among a people essentially one, was demanded by all the bowels of mercy which the evils of war and divisions should seek to prevent. We did affectionately endeavour to make and preserve peace, but our offer was rejected as of no deserving. But let

us still believe that the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace, nor ever indulge, for one moment, a spirit of evil retaliation.

Perhaps I might say, without impropriety, that it was extremely strange for me to be at a Methodist General Conference, and virtually shut out from Methodist pulpits. Yet this was so. But for the brotherly heart and hand of a Cumberland Presbyterian, the Rev. Mr. Bryant, I might have left Pittsburgh without the pleasing reflection of having preached a single sermon. But, by his ministerial courtesy, I had the honour of addressing as fine a looking congregation as ever heard my voice. Had I remained, I believe my time would have been fully occupied in the pulpits of other denominations.

From this I infer, that a minister of Christ in Pittsburgh from a slaveholding State, would not be regarded, in any wise, as an outlaw, whom to honour, would outrage the common sense of right. I feel it a duty to say, in so far as the Methodists in Pittsburgh were concerned, they would have preferred that the Southern preachers should have been invited to preach. The General Conference must have the glory or shame of this repudiation.

I should not have alluded to this one-sided affair, if I had not desired an opening which would make it natural for me to say, that I sincerely hope that the Church, South, will never be guilty of closing her pulpits against a regular minister of the Church, North, who may be among us on necessary account. It may apply as well to ministers, as to magistrates, when it is said, Honour to whom honour is due. And if one of their chief ministers, or even clever ministers, was at a General, or even Annual Conference with us, could we have the heart to treat him as an unworthy brother?

On my way to Pittsburgh, I had the happiness to meet in Baltimore, that Christian gentleman, and eminent minister of Christ, the Rev. Dr. Dixon. It having been assumed, as a thing of course, that a Wesleyan minister from England, would endorse every abolition act of the majority, and knowing as I did that almost every Englishman was committed on the subject of slavery, I could but feel that caution and reserve were called for. My private feelings and almost involuntary confidence in his well-matured judgment, still urged me to commune fearlessly with him on the points in dispute between the North and South.

His attention, however, when his ear could be gained, was called mainly by one of the delegates, who also had fallen in with the doctor in Baltimore. While descending the river from Brownsville, in a steamer, the doctor and myself had some talk upon the subject of the division of the Church, and the cause which had led to it, to all which he listened as one whose heart sympathized with every interest of the great Wesleyan family.

When in full view of the city, and knowing we would soon be separated, I remarked to him, that although we were delegates sent to the same body from different portions of one great family, I feared a very different fate awaited us. "You will be received and welcomed as a messenger of the Church, while I shall be refused and rejected."

To these remarks he warmly said, "I hope not;" adding, "If you are rejected, it will be the occasion of everlasting regret to me."

Here we parted, and were but little together until our departure for Cincinnati, when a gracious Providence brought us together again on another fine steamer.

While on this passage, I found the doctor intensely engaged reading the books which had been given him by the Southern preachers on the cause of division between the North and South. The facts contained in these records made a deep impression on his mind, and led him to converse more freely on this, to him, painful occurrence. He was a man, however, of such finely balanced feeling, and well-disciplined mind, that no opinion was openly expressed. But permit me to say this much: I believe Dr. Dixon to be a man towards whom the Church, South, should cherish a high appreciation.

On this trip to Cincinnati, I had the pleasure of the company of Brother Ryerson, one of the delegates from Canada, and the travelling companion of Dr. Dixon. His more natural and close relation to the doctor, contributed no little to the assurance I felt, that he sympathized with us in feelings of tender regard. The opportunity was so good, and the pleasure which fraternal intercourse with any and every legitimate organization of Wesleyan Methodists would impart, that I could not fail to ask Bro. Ryerson how he thought an offer from us of friendly relations with the Canada Conference would be received? To which he replied, "Most cordially. Our sympathies are all with the South."

In view of these very cordial words, and prompted, as we ever ought to be, by a pure fraternal love for all the children of Wesley, I would respectfully suggest the propriety of this General Conference directing, by resolution, the Bishops, or a committee created for the purpose, to send to the next British Conference a letter declaratory of our firm attachment to Methodism as we received it from Mr. Wesley in the days of Bishop Asbury, and of the pleasure it would afford us to be recognized by them as a worthy and true-hearted portion of the great Methodist family. And also that the same course be pursued towards the Canada Conference, asking from each Conference an answer at their earliest convenience.

In conclusion, I beg to offer the following resolution :

*Resolved*, By the Delegates of the Annual Conferences of the M. E. Church, South, in General Conference assembled, that we will steadfastly adhere to the ground taken in the last communication of our delegate to the General Conference of the M. E. Church, in Pittsburgh, May, 1848, to wit: That we cannot, under their act of rejection and refusal, renew our offer of fraternal relations and intercourse: but will at all times entertain any proposition coming from the M. E. Church to us, whether it be by written communication, or by delegation, having for its object friendly relations, and predicated of the rights granted to us by the Plan of Separation adopted in New York, 1844.

Respectfully submitted.

*Signed*,

L. PIERCE.

*St. Louis, May, 1850.*

B. T. Crouch, chairman of the Committee on Episcopacy, presented Reports Nos. 5 and 6, which were read, and Conference proceeded to act on the former.

The Report is as follows :—

The Committee on Episcopacy beg leave to present the following as their Report on the claims of the Bishops, and the plan and means of meeting those claims, to wit :

Your Committee recommend that the sum of \$40 per annum be allowed to each of our Bishops, on account of their official postage for the past four years; which allowance, according to



the best information we have been able to obtain, leaves deficiencies in the travelling expenses of the Bishops as follows, *viz.* :

Bishop Soule, including \$99.20, which he expended in removing his family from Ohio to Nashville, and subsequently from Nashville to his present residence, and exclusive of his expenses to and from this place, which are assumed by the Tennessee delegation, \$181.20.

Bishop Andrew, exclusive of his expenses to and from this place, which the Georgia delegation assumes, \$140.00.

Bishop Paine, exclusive of his expenses to and from this place, which the Memphis delegates have assumed, \$144.00.

Bishop Capers, including his expenses to and from this place, \$363.53.

The Committee propose and recommend to the General Conference, the adoption of the following resolutions, to wit :

*Resolved*, 1. That our Book Agent be, and he is hereby directed, to pay to the Bishops, severally, the above allowances.

*Resolved*, 2. That the salaries of our Bishops for the ensuing four years, be, per annum, as follows, *viz.* :

Bishop Soule, including all claims,	. . . . .	\$1000
Bishop Andrew, “	“ . . . . .	1350
Bishop Capers, “	“ . . . . .	1350
Bishop Paine, “	“ . . . . .	1350
Bishop Bascom, “	“ . . . . .	1350

*Note.*—The Committee would state, that Bishop Soule's travelling expenses, as included in the above allowance, remain at \$125 per annum; but in the case of the other bishops, their travelling expenses are estimated at \$150 per annum, and are so included in the above allowances.

*Resolved*, 3. That the family and travelling expenses of the Bishops, for the ensuing four years, be paid, by our Book Agent, quarterly; and that their quarterage claims be paid by the Annual Conferences.

*Resolved*, 4. That the profits of the several presses of the Church be placed annually in the hands of our Book Agent, to aid in meeting the claims of the Bishops, superannuated preachers, and the widows and orphans of preachers.

*Resolved*, 5. That as the official postage of the Bishops is an indispensable item in their bills of travelling expenses, and therefore ought to be allowed to them, they are hereby respectfully requested to present such bills, hereafter, as a distinct item, in their claims for travelling expenses.

*Resolved*, 6. That we respectfully suggest to our Bishops to hold the sessions of the newer Conferences first, if, in arranging their work, they shall find it practicable, that they may thereby be the better prepared to fill vacancies in said Conferences, by transfers from the older Conferences.

The Committee beg leave to report, that they have considered the resolution of Dr. Winans, relative to changing the rule which provides for the trial of a Bishop, and are of opinion that the proposed change is inexpedient at present.

B. T. CROUCH, *Chairman*.

*St. Louis, Mo., May 11, 1850.*

The first and second resolutions were read and adopted, the question being put by the Secretary.

The third resolution, providing for the payment of the Bishops' family and travelling expenses by the Book Agent, was read, and J. E. Evans moved a substitute, providing for the payment by the Annual Conferences.

J. Hamilton moved an amendment, providing that the Book Agent pay any deficiency of the Annual Conference; which, on motion of G. F. Pierce, was laid on the table, and the substitute was adopted.

The fourth resolution was read, and the clause requiring the Book Agent to pay over the profits of the presses of the church to aid in meeting the claims of the Bishops, superannuated preachers, widows, and orphans, on motion of J. Hamilton, was struck out.

F. E. Pitts moved to substitute "Annual Conferences" for "Agent."

A motion of T. Crowder to lay that motion on the table was lost.

On motion of J. B. McFerrin, the Report was laid on the table for the present.

The chairman of the Committee on Episcopacy presented

Report No. 1, which had been recommitted, which was adopted as follows:—

The Committee on Episcopacy, having had the characters and administration of our Superintendents under consideration, beg leave to report the following resolution for the adoption of the Conference, *viz.* :

*Resolved*, That the characters of the Bishops do now pass.

B. T. CROUCH, *Chairman*.

*St Louis, Mo., May 11, 1850.*

B. T. Crouch offered resolutions discharging the Committee on Episcopacy, and providing for the erection of another Committee; which, on motion of A. L. P. Green, were laid on the table.

A. H. Mitchell, chairman of the Committee to superintend the funeral of Brother Boring, reported, that the expenses amounted to \$107.50; which amount the Conference was proceeding to raise by collection, when J. Boyle stated, that the members and friends of the Methodist Church in this city, begged the privilege of defraying said expenses.

On motion of B. M. Drake, the Conference accepted the generous proposal, and expressed its grateful appreciation thereof by a rising vote.

The following paper was then presented, and, on motion of S. A. Latta, the Conference testified its concurrence in the sentiments which it contains, and instructed the Secretary to publish the paper in the journals of this city:—

“The Georgia delegation beg leave to express, in this public and formal manner, their deep sense of indebtedness to the family of Bro. Dutcher, the Odd Fellows, the Masonic Fraternity, and the Order of the Sons of Temperance, of St. Louis, for the sympathy and kindness manifested by them, respectively, during the illness of our beloved brother, Isaac Boring.

“Far from home, and in the midst of strangers, we feel deeply affected by the attentions which smoothed the sick-bed of our stricken brother, watched by his coffin, and followed him to his last, sad, lonely resting-place, and will hold in grateful remembrance the Christian courtesies so liberally shown to the departed, and the narration of which, we doubt not, will be a balm and consolation to the wounded hearts of his desolate home.

“ May the blessing of God, our Heavenly Father, rest, in all the plenitude of grace, upon the family of Brother Dutcher, and the several associations whose members, by their kindness, have soothed our sorrows, and mingled their tears with ours at the funeral of our friend.

G. F. PIERCE,  
SAML. ANTHONY,  
L. PIERCE,  
J. E. EVANS,  
J. W. GLENN,  
R. RENEAU.

The chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy presented the following Report, which, on motion of J. E. Evans, was adopted:

The Committee on the Itinerancy, to whom was referred the subject of “ Employing Superannuated Ministers in our Literary Institutions, in preference of efficient ministers,” having had the same under consideration, beg leave to submit the following Report:—

Whereas the attention of this General Conference has been called to the matter of employing efficient travelling preachers in our Literary Institutions,—Therefore,

*Resolved*, That it is the judgment of this Committee, that the General Conference can make no law regulating the appointment of superannuated preachers: yet we do recommend our Superintendents to appoint as few of our active efficient ministers to such institutions as is consistent with the absolute necessities of our seminaries of learning.

Respectfully submitted.

LEROY M. LEE, *Chairman*.

The chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy presented another Report, which was adopted, as follows, the 15th rule being suspended to allow of present action:

The Committee on Itinerancy having had the Journals of the several Annual Conferences under examination, find defects and omissions, which, in their judgment, require the notice and action of this Conference. They beg leave, therefore, to state the facts that have fallen under their notice, and recommend the adoption of the resolutions annexed:—

1st. Omissions to record facts required to be recorded by the Discipline, as in the following instances: The Journal of the Holston Conference for 1846 contains no statement that the candidates for full connection were examined before the Conference. The same is also true of the Journal of the North Carolina Conference. And in the Journal of the East Texas Conference, for 1848, there is no classification of subjects under the different questions laid down in the Discipline.

2d. Omissions of statistical information.—This defect is general, though in some of the Journals it is occasionally and partially attended to. But in the Virginia, South Carolina, Mississippi, St. Louis, and Florida Conferences, there is an entire omission of statistical information, especially in relation to the numbers in Society.

3d. Omissions to enter the stations of the preachers. The Alabama, and one or two others, only furnish an answer to the question: "Where are the preachers stationed this year?"

Regarding the matters here specified as important to a correct and full record of the proceedings of an Annual Conference, and as expressly required by the Discipline, and in order to secure uniformity in the future, your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That the Bishops be, and they hereby are, instructed to see that the Secretaries of the several Annual Conferences enter upon their respective Journals, as fully as may be, answers to each of the questions contained in question 4th, chapter 2d, section 3d, page 21, of the Discipline.

2. *Resolved*, That to answer 6th, of question 3d, section 5th, chapter 2d, of page 38, be added the following words: "and to see that the names of all persons so ordained be entered on the Journals of the Conference."

Respectfully submitted.

LEROY M. LEE, *Chairman*.

W. M. Wightman, chairman of the Committee on Education, presented Report No. 1, which was read, and discussed at some length. The fifteen-minute rule was suspended, to allow H. H. Kavanaugh to extend his remarks in opposition to the Report.

On motion of J. E. Evans, the session was protracted till one

o'clock. The question was then put on the Report, item by item, and it was adopted as follows:—

#### AFFAIRS OF TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY.

The Committee on Education, to whom was referred the Report of the Curators of Transylvania University and accompanying documents, having had the same under consideration, beg respectfully to present the following as their Report, No. 1:

The present condition of the University is far from being prosperous. The number of students in attendance is very limited. It has been found necessary to dispense with the services of one member of the Academic Faculty. The late President, Dr. Bascom, has resigned, and no regular successor has been elected to fill the vacancy. The Board of Curators, moreover, urgently call for pecuniary aid to the amount of at least \$6000, to prevent the immediate sale of the Blythe property—the only real estate connected with the University which the Church can hold, should the present debt be paid. In addition, it is the opinion of the Curators, that the endowment of the President's chair is a measure of vital importance, since the income of the institution is hardly sufficient to support the other chairs; indeed, this is stated to be a measure of indispensable necessity, if existing relations between the M. E. Church, South, and the University, are expected to be continued.

In making up an opinion as to what measures, if any, this General Conference should adopt, to meet the emergencies thus presented, your committee carefully reviewed the original conditions on which the University was placed under the control and patronage of the Church. From published documents before us, it appears that no rights of property were transferred by the Trustees to the Commissioners of the General Conference, nor were any obligations assumed by the latter to meet the liabilities of the institution. No engagement was made, binding the General Conference, collectively or individually, to pay any money either to endow or sustain it. The Trustees pledged themselves to appropriate the income arising from the permanent funds of the University, to the support of a Faculty to be nominated by a Board of Curators, on behalf of the General Conference, and to secure a representation of the Church in the

Board of Trustees—a close corporation—it was expressly stipulated that the Board would unite with the Curators in an application to the Legislature for such an alteration of the Charter as would give to the Church the right of electing three Trustees, possessing equal powers and privileges with the other Trustees. No such application, however, has yet been made, and however efficiently the Curators have discharged the duties of their trust, it is, nevertheless, obvious, that the M. E. Church, South, has no further control in the premises than what is furnished by the appointment of the Faculty, and, through them, a general supervision of the internal regulations of the college.

The only method of raising the \$30,000 which the Curators suggest, and which is open to the consideration and action of the General Conference, is to recommend to all the Annual Conferences to raise as much money as possible, and to send out Agents to do this. But, in the first place, it is well known, that nearly every Annual Conference in the Connection is pledged, primarily, to its own local institutions of learning—is straining every nerve to endow and render them permanent—in some cases to rescue from imminent embarrassment its own educational establishments, and will naturally, not to say necessarily, feel that home institutions must be cared for first. And, second, there is, at present, nothing in the circumstances of Transylvania University which gives it a catholic and connectional character beyond that possessed by other Methodist institutions of learning. And, third, there is no important pecuniary interest—no such direct control of vested funds or landed property as might be set down in dollars and cents—put in peril, and demanding a few additional thousands to secure it to the Church. In these circumstances, your committee cannot see on what grounds an Agent could make an appeal to the liberality of distant parts of the connection, with the hope of succeeding to any such extent as the present liabilities of the University require. Failure must be the unavoidable result; and it becomes a grave question, whether it is right to hold out expectations where all the probabilities are against the hope of success.

To the Conferences located in the State of Kentucky, there is a direct and important interest in retaining the present relations between them and the University. They have no other Collegiate institution of learning in possession or in prospect.

Augusta College has been disbanded. A portion, at least, of the endowment raised for Augusta College, may be turned to good account in favour of the University; and, indeed, there exists a pledge to that effect. The Trustees of the University say, in their communication to the Curators, that they do not consider it important whether the entire M. E. Church, South, should retain the present control of Transylvania University, or that portion of the Church which is found in Kentucky. And the Curators, in their Address to the Public, in January, 1849, at the time when Dr. Bascom's connection with the institution ceased, distinctly referred to the present session of the General Conference as a suitable occasion for carefully reviewing existing relations between the original contracting parties, in reference to a determination whether the interests of both parties are likely to be best promoted by a continuance of existing relations, or by an amicable dissolution of the contract. Entertaining the latter opinion, and believing that the interests of Kentucky Methodism, and those of the University, can be best secured by transferring to the Kentucky and Louisville Conferences all the right of control heretofore possessed by this General Conference, the Committee hereby recommend, that, in the event the Board of Trustees make no objection, the Board of Curators, now in office, as the representatives of the M. E. Church, South, should be considered, upon the adoption of this Report, as holding their connection with Transylvania University for, and in behalf of the Kentucky and Louisville Conferences.

The Committee take pleasure in reporting that the documents before them furnish evidences of the fact, that Dr. Bascom's connection with the University has been marked with great success. He found no students in attendance when his term of service commenced; but during his Presidency, the number averaged annually *two hundred* in the Academical Department. The entire number matriculated during the period of the last seven years, amounted to 1690.

In conclusion, the Committee recommend for the adoption of the General Conference, the following Resolutions, *viz.*:

*Resolved*, 1. That the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, entertain the highest appreciation of



the original tender made by the Trustees of Transylvania University of that institution to the supervision of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

*Resolved*, 2. That, nevertheless, it is the present conviction of the General Conference, that the interests of the University can be more advantageously secured and managed by the Kentucky and Louisville Annual Conferences, than by a continuance of existing relations.

*Resolved*, 3. That should it meet the concurrence of the Trustees of Transylvania University, the entire control and management, so far as now possessed by this General Conference, shall be transferred to the Kentucky and Louisville Conferences aforesaid, to be exercised by them as may be mutually agreed upon between the conferences.

W. M. WIGHTMAN, *Chairman*.

*St. Louis, Mo., May 11, 1850.*

On motion of T. N. Ralston, the secretary was instructed to furnish B. T. Crouch a certified copy of the foregoing report.

J. Harrison presented a communication from certain persons in Western Virginia, which was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

A. L. P. Green presented the following Resolutions :—

*Resolved*, That it shall be the duty of the editor of to have completed the Fourth volume of the Quarterly Review, and that the ninth and tenth articles of section the eighth, page 192, be stricken out of the Discipline.

*Resolved*, That the presses, fixtures, &c., at Charleston, Richmond, Nashville, shall be part and parcel of the Book Concern ; that it shall be the duty of the Publishing Committee at each place to report the fiscal condition of their respective concerns to the Book Agent, on the first day of January, annually, and also to pay over to said Agent, annually, the proceeds of their respective papers and periodicals.

The second of these resolutions was adopted, and, pending a discussion on filling the blanks, the Conference adjourned, with the benediction by the Bishop, to meet at three o'clock this afternoon.

*Monday Afternoon, May 13.*

Conference met, Bishop Andrew in the chair. Religious services were conducted by T. L. Boswell.

The Minutes were read and approved.

Bishop Capers then took the chair.

The Conference granted G. Garrett leave of absence to render attention to Bishop Soule, he being confined to his room by serious illness.

The discussion of the question before the Conference at its adjournment this morning, was resumed, and A. L. P. Green moved to fill the blank in the resolution with the "Methodist Expositor," at Louisville; the "Methodist Episcopalian," at Knoxville, Tenn.; the "Texas Wesleyan Banner," at Houston, Texas; the "St. Louis Christian Advocate," at St. Louis, Mo.; the "New Orleans Christian Advocate," at New Orleans; the "Southern Lady's Companion," at Nashville, Tenn.; and a Sunday-school Journal at

After some discussion, on motion of B. M. Drake, the question was reconsidered. A substitute was offered by W. Winans and W. M. Wightman, consisting of resolutions withdrawing the patronage of the General Conference from the papers published in Richmond, Charleston, and Nashville, and authorizing Annual Conferences, under certain restrictions, to establish papers. The substitute, on motion of A. L. P. Green, was laid on the table.

The resolution, without the blank, was then adopted.

On motion of J. Boyle, it was

*Resolved*, That in view of the peculiar emergency under which the Methodist Expositor was started—an emergency which, in all probability, will not occur again, and, therefore, cannot be cited as a precedent—this General Conference will take that paper, with its liabilities and patronage.

On motion of J. Boyle, the Publishing Committee of the Methodist Expositor was instructed to remove that paper, as soon as practicable, from Cincinnati to Louisville.

On motion of C. Collins, it was

*Resolved*, That the Methodist Episcopalian and the Texas Wesleyan Banner shall be, and hereby are, recognized and adopted by the General Conference.

The following Resolution was then presented :—

*Resolved*, That the Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Arkansas Conferences be authorized to establish a paper at such point as they may select; and that the Bishop presiding in said Conferences shall be authorized to appoint an Editor, when requested to do so.

J. HAMILTON,  
B. M. DRAKE.

J. Boyle moved to amend, by adding the following :—

*Provided*, That this General Conference shall not be considered as assuming any pecuniary responsibilities in these papers.

The amendment was adopted, and the Resolution, as amended, was laid on the table.

The Conference then adjourned, with the benediction by the Bishop.

### *Tuesday Morning, May 14.*

Conference met, Bishop Andrew in the chair. Religious services by A. Dibrell.

The Minutes were read and approved.

A Record of the Ordination of Bishop Bascom, prepared by the Secretary, was ordered to be inserted in the Journal.

The chairman of the Committee on Episcopacy, presented Report No. 7, which was adopted. The Reports, Nos. 5 and 6, were taken up, and the following was adopted as an amendment of the former :—

Your committee recommend that the sum of forty dollars per annum be allowed to each of our Bishops on account of their official postage for the first four years ; which allowance according to the best information we have been able to obtain, leaves deficiencies in the travelling expenses of the Bishops, as follows, to wit :

Bishop Soule, including \$99.20, which he expended in removing his family from Ohio, to Nashville, and, subsequently, from Nashville to his present residence, and exclusive of his expenses to and from this place, which are assumed by the Tennessee delegation, . . . . .	\$181 20
Bishop Andrew, exclusive of his expenses to and from this place, which the Georgia delegation assumes, . . . . .	140 00
Bishop Paine, exclusive of his expenses to and from this place, which the Memphis delegates have assumed, . . . . .	144 00
Bishop Capers, including his expenses to and from this place . . . . .	366 53

The Committee propose and recommend to the General Conference the adoption of the following Resolutions :

1. That our Book Agent be, and he is hereby directed, to pay to the Bishops, severally, the above allowances.

2. That the salaries of the Bishops for the ensuing four years be, per annum, as follows :—

Bishop Soule, including all claims, . . .	\$1000
“ Andrew, “ “ “ . . .	1350
“ Capers, “ “ “ . . .	1350
“ Paine, “ “ “ . . .	1350
“ Bascom, “ “ “ . . .	1350

Bishop Soule's travelling expenses, as included in the above allowance, remain at \$125 per annum. But in the case of the other Bishops, their travelling expenses are estimated at \$150 per annum, and are so included in the foregoing allowances.

3. That the expenses of the Bishops be paid by the Annual Conferences, as they have been for the last four years, and that the assessments to the Annual Conferences be made on the same plan by the Committee on Episcopacy, and furnished to each Conference.

Report No. 7, referring to this resolution, is as follows :—

*Resolved*, That the several Annual Conferences provide for the quarterly and table and travelling expenses of our general Superintendents, according to the following apportionment :—

Indian Mission Conference,	. . .	\$425
Kentucky	" . . .	400
Louisville	" . . .	362
Holston	" . . .	250
Missouri	" . . .	256
St. Louis	" . . .	256
Mississippi	" . . .	300
Louisiana	" . . .	267
Tennessee	" . . .	506
Virginia	" . . .	531
North Carolina	" . . .	387
Memphis	" . . .	480
South Carolina	" . . .	431
Georgia	" . . .	531
Alabama	" . . .	531
Florida	" . . .	175
Arkansas	" . . .	91
Eastern Texas	" . . .	91
Texas	" . . .	106
Western Virginia	" . . .	24

---

Total, \$6400

Report No. 6 was withdrawn, being superseded by the foregoing.

The chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy presented the following Report, which was adopted, the 15th rule being suspended to allow of present action:—

The Committee on Itinerancy, to whom was referred the duty of inquiring whether any member of an Annual Conference has been deposed from his ministerial office for immoral conduct or otherwise, and yet retained in the membership of the Church; and if so, whether the act is consistent with our constitution and laws—having had the same under consideration, beg leave to state the following facts, as all that bears upon the subject, that has come under their notice.

1st. They find in the Journal of the North Carolina Conference for the year 1848, the following preamble and resolutions: "Whereas, it has appeared in evidence that Samuel S. Bryant

has, on certain occasions, indulged in the intemperate and improper use of ardent spirits; and the said Samuel S. Bryant admits himself to have been of set purpose drinking in the city of Richmond: Therefore, Resolved, That said Samuel S. Bryant be, and he is hereby, deprived of all authority to exercise any of the functions of the Christian ministry in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South."

2d. The published Minutes of the several Annual Conferences for the year 1848-9, in answer to the question, "Who have been expelled from the connection this year?" contains, in the Minutes of the North Carolina Conference, the following answer: "No one. Samuel S. Bryant has been put out of the ministry."

Upon these facts, your Committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions, *viz.* :

1st. *Resolved*, That it is inconsistent with the constitution and laws of the Church to depose from the ministry any person convicted of immoral conduct, without at the same time, and by the same act, expelling him from the Church.

2d. *Resolved*, That the only legal decisions recognized by the Discipline in the case of trial for immoral conduct, are acquittal, suspension, and expulsion.

3d. *Resolved*, That our Bishops be, and they hereby are, instructed to see that the law of the Church on the subject of the "trial of immoral ministers," be strictly enforced in the Annual Conferences.

4th. *Resolved*, That the word "*locate*," in the third paragraph of the answer to question fourth, of chapter four, section one, page eighty-seven, be stricken from the Discipline.

Respectfully submitted,

LEROY M. LEE, *Chairman*.

Report No. 2, of the Committee on Boundaries, was taken up, and the last two resolutions were adopted, as follows :

*Resolved*, That the Kansas River District be detached from the Indian Mission Conference, and be added to the St. Louis Conference.

*Resolved*, That the boundary of the Missouri Conference be so changed as to embrace the city of Quincy, Illinois.

G. W. D. HARRIS, *Chairman*.

The chairman of the Committee on Boundaries presented Report, No. 4, which was adopted, as follows:—

The Committee on Boundaries, to whom the Memorial from certain brethren in Virginia was referred on yesterday, have had the same under consideration, and report as follows:—

1. *Resolved*, That the General Conference reconsider that part of the Report of the Committee on Boundaries by which the new Conference formed in Western Virginia was called the “Western Virginia Conference,” and that it be changed to “Kanawha.”

2. *Resolved*, That the boundaries of said Conference be so changed, as to include that part of the State of Kentucky now embraced in the Guyandotte District.

G. W. D. HARRIS, *Chairman*.

On motion of John Early, the first resolution was reconsidered, and “Western Virginia” was restored in place of “Kanawha.”

The following Resolution was presented, and, on motion of A. L. P. Green, was laid on the table:

The undersigned, learning that the boundary line, as now ordered, between the South and North Carolina Conferences, will sever the several circuits along the border; and fearing that the results will be sadly injurious to that section of the Church—with the distinct understanding, that the vote for reconsideration and final adjustment will be taken without debate, do now respectfully move a reconsideration of the vote by which the boundary line in question was ordered to be changed.

W. HICKS.

W. H. ROGERS.

The following protest of the South Carolina Delegates, in reference to the division of the South Carolina Conference, was presented, and, on motion of G. Garrett, was ordered to be entered on the Journal:—

“We, the delegates of the South Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in behalf of the entire ministry and membership whose interests we here represent, and who have respectfully and officially protested against any

change in the boundary between the North and South Carolina Conferences, do most earnestly and solemnly remonstrate against the action of this General Conference depriving us of a large portion of our territory by the violent removal of a landmark established by our fathers, and left unchanged for the last half century.

“ We regard the action aforesaid as an unjust usurpation of power over the rights and privileges appertaining to Annual Conferences—violative of the customs and usages of our Church towards old and well-established Conferences—revolutionary in its principles and tendency, and fraught with disastrous consequences to the Church of God, whose interests are paramount to all considerations earthly and temporal.

*Signed,*

“ W. M. WIGHTMAN,  
H. A. C. WALKER,  
A. M. SHIPP,  
J. STACY,  
W. A. GAMEWELL,  
C. BETTS,  
N. TALLEY,  
S. W. CAPERS,  
R. J. BOYD.”

On motion of W. A. Smith, the word “Charleston” was struck out in paragraph the first, section 8, part second, of the Discipline.

On motion of J. E. Evans, the following resolutions were adopted :—

*Resolved,* That the tender of the Southern Lady’s Companion, made by the Editors of that Monthly be accepted, and that it be adopted by this General Conference.

*Resolved,* That said Lady’s Companion be published and permanently located at Nashville, Tenn., at the office of the Nashville Christian Advocate, on the same principles as those regulating the Advocate, and that the General Conference elect its Editor.

On motion of John Early, the word “Commissioners” was struck out of paragraph 9, section 8, part ii., of the Discipline, and the words, “the Book Agent,” substituted.

A motion of W. A. Smith to strike out the 9th paragraph of section 8, was laid on the table.



The twelfth paragraph was amended so as to read, "there shall be an Assistant Book Agent at Richmond, and another at Louisville."

On motion of John Early, the fifteenth paragraph of section 8, respecting the multiplication of Conference papers, was stricken out; and, on motion of T. N. Ralston, it was

*Resolved*, That the Bishops be authorized, when requested by an Annual Conference, or two or more Annual Conferences, jointly, to appoint an editor to any religious periodical, under the patronage of such Conference or Conferences.

On motion of A. L. P. Green, it was

*Resolved*, That there shall be published at Charleston, under the direction of the Agent, a Sabbath-school journal, with a General Depository at Nashville, and that the General Conference appoint an editor for the same, who shall also be the General Book Editor.

On motion of E. W. Sehon, the Quarterly Review was located at Louisville.

The following Resolutions were then adopted:—

1. That the Book Agent of the M. E. Church, South, shall establish a weekly paper in the city of St. Louis, provided that its publication shall not be commenced until at least 2000 subscribers shall have been obtained.

2. The paper shall be called the St. Louis Christian Advocate, and shall be under the control of a Publishing Committee, consisting of three members of the St. Louis Conference, and two members of the Missouri Conference, who shall report to said Conferences, and also to the General Conference.

3. When the requisite number of subscribers shall have been obtained, the Publishing Committee shall elect an Editor by a majority of votes, and fix his salary.

4. In all other respects, the paper shall be subject to the same disciplinary regulations as the other General Conference papers.

J. BOYLE,

A. MONROE.

On motion of W. A. Smith, all which respects Assistant Editors, was ordered to be stricken from the Discipline.

On motion of W. A. Smith, it was

*Resolved*, So to amend the Discipline, page 191, paragraph 7, as to read: "for each of the papers authorized by the General Conference, there shall be an Editor, who shall be elected, &c.;" and page 195, paragraph 19, by striking out all after "Book Concern," and inserting after the words, *General Book Agent*, "and Assistant Book Agents."

Report No. 2, of Committee on Missions, was adopted, as follows:—

1. *Resolved*, That the Constitution of the Parent Missionary Society be published in our Book of Discipline, as item first, in the section on Missions; that item the second be stricken out; and that item the first be item the second.

2. That the Bishops be, and are hereby authorized to organize an Annual Conference in California, before the meeting of the next General Conference, should they deem it necessary, provided such an arrangement do not conflict with the Missionary interests of other fields already occupied.

S. A. LATTA, *Chairman*.

On motion of A. L. P. Green, the Conference proceeded, by nomination and election, to choose an Agent, Assistant Agent, Editors, and Missionary Secretary.

John Early was duly elected Book Agent.

Thomas O. Summers, Book Editor and Editor of Sunday-school journal.

Eeroy M. Lee, Editor of Richmond C. Advocate.

Wm. M. Wightman, Editor of Southern C. Advocate.

J. B. McFerrin, Editor of Nashville C. Advocate.

Moses M. Henkle, Editor of Lady's Companion.

Samuel A. Latta, Editor of Methodist Expositor.

E. W. Sehon, Missionary Secretary.

Ed. Stevenson, Assistant Book Agent at Louisville.

The appointment of an Assistant Book Agent at Richmond was, on motion, left to the Book Agent and Book Committee.

Wm. H. Anderson was elected Editor of the Quarterly Review, but he declined. The vote by which the Review was located at Louisville, was reconsidered, and, on motion of B. M.

Drake, it was changed to Richmond, and David S. Doggett was elected Editor thereof.

Chauncy Richardson was elected Editor of the Texas Wesleyan Banner.

Sam. Patton was elected Editor of the Methodist Episcopalian.

On motion of B. M. Drake, these papers are to report to the Book Agent as other papers.

H. A. C. Walker, chairman of the Committee on Expenses of delegates, presented a report, which was adopted, as follows:—

The Committee on the Travelling Expenses of the Delegates respectfully report, that the delegates from four Annual Conferences have reported a surplus, *viz.*:

Missouri	.	.	\$45 30
St. Louis	.	.	100 00
Louisville	.	.	27 90
Indian Mission	.	.	2 25
<hr/>			
			Total, \$175 45.

The delegates from five Conferences have reported a deficiency, *viz.*:

Virginia	.	.	\$182 69
North Carolina	.	.	213 21
Florida	.	.	87 47
Texas	.	.	27 15
East Texas	.	.	56 05
<hr/>			
			Total, \$566 57.

The amount received by the Committee has been disbursed as follows, *viz.*:

To Virginia	.	.	\$56 00
“ North Carolina	.	.	66 00
“ Florida	.	.	27 06
“ Texas	.	.	8 73
“ East Texas	.	.	17 66
<hr/>			
			Total, \$175 45.

In view of the discrepancy between the rule of Discipline in reference to defraying the expenses of delegates to the General Conference, and the action in the premises, the Committee beg leave to recommend that the said rule—see page 176, fourth

line from top—be altered so as to read, after the words, “and the sums so collected shall be,” *applied by the delegates of the Annual Conferences respectively in which such collections shall be made, in proportion to the expenses of the several delegates, who shall report to their Conference at its next annual session.*

Respectfully submitted,

H. A. C. WALKER, *Chairman.*

*St. Louis, Mo., May, 1850.*

On motion, that part of the surplus apportioned to the Virginia delegates, was ordered to be paid over to the Texas and East Texas Conferences, and the Florida Conference, at the discretion of the Committee.

On motion, it was

*Resolved*, That L. M. Lee be, and he hereby is, authorized to attend the next session of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and ask permission of that body to copy the records of the General Conference from the beginning down to the session of 1844, for the use of this body, and of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

On motion of W. A. Smith, the Bishops were requested to insert the Course of Study in the Discipline.

On motion of G. F. Pierce, Report No. 4, of the Committee on Revisals, was taken up, and that item of the Report recommending that sect. 9, part 2d, of the Book of Discipline, be expunged, was acted on.

The ayes and noes were called for by W. M. Wightman, and the following voted for the recommendation of the Committee, *viz.* :—

*Ayes*:—Kavanaugh, Stevenson, Green, Blackwell, McMahon, Brock, Allen, Campbell, Rogers, Randle, Early, W. A. Smith, Doggett, Rosser, Closs, Leigh, Nicholson, Evans, Glenn, L. Pierce, G. F. Pierce, Reneau, Wightman, Walker, Shipp, Stacy, Gamewell, Betts, Talley, S. W. Capers, Boyd, Summers, Murrah, Dorman, Callaway, Garrett, Heard, C. Richardson—38.

*Noes* :—Crouch, Ralston, Anderson, Harrison, Latta, Sehon, Redford, Maddin, W. Patton, Monroe, B. R. Johnson, Boyle, Lacy, T. H. Capers, T. W. Randle, Henkle, Hanner, S. Patton,

Collins, Atkins, Hicks, W. H. Rogers, Harris, Boswell, W. M. McFerrin, Winans, Drake, Lane, Doty, Speer, Hamill, Crowder, L. M. Lee, Deems, Doub, Hamilton, Ratcliffe, Hunter, Moores, McAlister, Talbot, Alexander, Lewis—43.

The following resolution of J. E. Evans was, on motion, laid on the table:—

*Resolved*, That the General Book Editor and Agent be, and they are hereby, instructed to issue the Discipline for the use of those conferences which may request it by formal resolution, leaving out any part, or all that is now in the Discipline on the subject, except the General Rule.

On motion of J. Hamilton, it was resolved, that the following paragraph shall be appended to the 9th sect., 2d part, in future editions of the Discipline:—

“ This section was inserted by a majority of votes when the M. E. Church embraced the whole country; and as the M. E. Church, South, still embraces a wide extent of country, with various views and conflicting interests, it is not removed, though it has long since become inoperative, and ceased, by common consent, to set forth a practical rule or principle.”

On motion of E. W. Sehon, the following were appointed the Book Committee:— W. A. Smith, G. F. Pierce, and C. B. Parsons.

On motion of J. Early, W. M. Wightman and T. O. Summers were appointed a Committee to arrange the Discipline, and to prepare for publication the General Conference Minutes of 1846 and 1850.

The Conference, on motion, proceeded to fix the seat of its next session, and Columbus, Ga., was duly selected.

The time was fixed at the 1st day of May, 1854.

The Committee on Finance presented a report, which was read, and ordered to be published, and recommended to the Annual Conferences. It is as follows:—

The Committee on Finance report the following

PLAN FOR MORE EFFECTUALLY CARRYING OUT THE FINANCIAL  
ARRANGEMENTS OF THE CHURCH.

I. At each session of the Annual Conference, there shall be a Joint Board of Stewards, composed,

1st. Of *one* lay Steward from each Presiding Elder's district, elected by the District Stewards, assembled to estimate and apportion the claims of the Presiding Elder. They shall have the right to vote and speak in the Annual Conference on all questions relating to the financial or secular interests of the Church.

2d. Of an equal number, or one more if the number of lay Stewards be an even number, appointed by the Annual Conference from among its own members. They shall be appointed either by the President, or by ballot, as the Conference may direct. After the first appointment, under this charter, the appointment shall be made at the close of the session. They shall hold their office until the close of the ensuing annual session of the Conference. Vacancies shall be filled by the Conference.

It shall be the duty of this Joint Board of Finance,

1st. To receive the funds of the Conference and divide them among the *necessitous* claimants, according to the *pro rata* amount of their several claims under the Discipline.

2d. To estimate the probable amount that will be required, at the next session of the Conference, to meet the claims of the Bishops, of the Superannuated Preachers, and of the widows and orphans of deceased Preachers, and to make up the deficiencies of those in the regular work, and to apportion the whole amount thus estimated among the several districts of the Conference.

3d. They shall carefully examine the reports of the several Recording Stewards of each circuit and station, and take such action thereon as may be deemed prudent, in order to improve our financial condition, and promote uniformity in the method and fidelity in the execution of the duties of Stewards.

4th. Each member of the Joint Board—and more especially the Chairman thereof—shall feel it his duty to be active in endeavouring to improve the financial condition of the Church, by written correspondence, or otherwise, with the Stewards and

other leading brethren of the several Circuits and Stations, and by public addresses to the Church at suitable times and occasions.

5th. The Board shall report its proceedings to the Annual Conference, before the close of its session, for its correction and adoption.

II. It shall be the duty of the annual meeting of the District Stewards—already provided for in the Discipline—in addition to the duties therein specified,

1st. To appoint, by ballot, one of the Stewards of the District, and an alternate—to represent the district as a member of the Joint Board of Finance—to hold his office until the next annual meeting of their body; and if, by death or otherwise, the district should be unrepresented in the Joint Board, the Presiding Elder shall appoint a Steward to fill the vacancy until the annual meeting of the District Stewards.

2d. In addition to the estimated and Disciplinary allowance to the Presiding Elder, they shall divide the amount assigned by the *Joint Board of Finance* to the District, as Conference Collection, among the several Circuits and Stations of the District; which amounts, so divided, shall be reported to the meeting hereafter provided for, by the Steward representing the Circuit or Station to which the amount is assigned. (The Presiding Elder shall also take a minute of these several appropriations.)

3d. The annual meeting of the District Stewards shall be held as soon as convenient to the Presiding Elder, (or some one of the Preachers of his district, whom he may appoint to attend in his absence,) after the adjournment of the Annual Conference. The *meeting* shall appoint the place for its session. If they fail to do so, the Presiding Elder shall appoint the place. He shall also appoint the place for the first session of the meeting to be held under this charter.

4th. The President of the District Meeting shall immediately forward to the Chairman of the *Joint Board of Finance*, a certificate of the election of the representative and his alternate, (with the address of each,) which shall accredit him as a member of the *Joint Board*. The Chairman of the Board shall correspond with him as far as he may deem necessary to promote the object of his appointment under this charter.

III. There shall be a meeting of the Stewards of each Circuit or Station as soon as may be convenient after the adjournment of the annual meeting of the District Stewards, at such time and place as may be appointed by the last Quarterly Conference of the preceding year. The first meeting under this charter shall be appointed by the Preacher in charge. They shall appoint their own Chairman. It shall be the duty of this meeting,

1st. To make a liberal and prudent appropriation for the family expenses of their Preacher, (if a man of family,) or for his board, (if a single man, and if it be deemed most expedient thus to provide for his board,) embracing, in the former case, a family residence in some convenient and eligible location, or the amount necessary to pay the rent thereof; or the amount necessary to pay the board of his family, if that be deemed the most advisable provision to make in the circumstances; also the amount necessary to pay for fuel, furniture, table expenses, and servant hire. In this appropriation they shall strictly and candidly regard what, in their best judgment, they may deem necessary to place the Preacher and his family in such circumstances of comfort and protection as should justify him in leaving them to serve the Church at the different points of his field of labour to the full extent of the requirements of the Discipline. To the sum so appropriated, they shall add the Quarterage or Disciplinary allowance to the Preacher or Preachers, and the result shall be the official appropriation to each Preacher.

2d. They shall receive the report of their representative in the District Stewards' meeting [and in the event of his failure to report, from any other authentic source,] the amounts apportioned to be raised by them for the Presiding Elder, and as Conference collections.

3d. They shall divide these several amounts among the several classes and congregations of the charge, according to their *numbers*, and, as well as they can judge, according to their *ability* and privileges.

4th. They shall divide the *classes* and congregations of the pastoral charge into sections, assigning each section to a particular Steward, whose duty it shall be to superintend and render all necessary aid to the class-leaders or collectors, as the case may be, in raising the amount assigned to each.

5th. The amount assessed to meet the claims on Conference



funds, called "Conference Collection," shall be kept separate, and raised by public collections in each congregation, or by private subscriptions and donations.

6th. The Steward of each section shall see that these and all other public collections are faithfully made *in due time*, and repeated, if the circumstances were unfavourable; and should the Conference collection fall short of the amount assessed to his section, he shall himself make, or cause to be made, faithful efforts to supply the deficiency by private subscriptions and contributions.

7th. If the special privilege be granted to them by the *Joint Board of Finance*, they may make a joint fund, so far as the collection of the money is concerned, of the total amount to be raised for the Preacher or Preachers of the Circuit or Station, and that to be raised for the Presiding Elder; *otherwise*, the amount to be raised for the Presiding Elder shall be collected separately, and the full amount so collected shall be paid to him, with any surplus money that may be in their hands. He shall have his final settlement, in writing, with the District lay Steward at the Annual Conference, who shall report the settlement to his Board; and he shall receive from the Presiding Elder, and pay over to them, any surplus money that may be in the Presiding Elder's hands, and it shall be placed to the credit of that District as Conference Collection.

8th. The moneys appropriated to the Preachers of a charge, shall, in all cases, be collected as a *joint* fund; but this fund shall be paid out to the Preachers according to their *pro rata* claims, as married or single men, and according to the *pro rata* amount that may be claimed as Quarterage and as family expenses. The same rule shall be observed by the lay Steward of the Joint Board in his settlement with the Presiding Elder.

9th. As soon as practicable, each Steward shall inform each Class composing his section, of the amount assigned to them; and the leader or collector shall ascertain of each member what he or she is willing to pay for the support of the Gospel in the Circuit or Station, and record the same in a book kept for that purpose. He shall use due diligence to collect the same, either weekly or quarterly, at the furthest, and pay it over to the Stewards at the Quarterly meeting, or weekly, as the case may be.

10th. Should any member fail to attend class, the leader or

collector shall visit such member at least once a quarter, and endeavour to collect the amount due on subscription. If necessary, the Steward of the section shall visit such delinquent members in furtherance of the same object.

11th. Each Steward shall circulate, or cause to be circulated, at all the appointments within his section where he may deem it expedient to do so, a subscription paper in aid of the same object, among those persons not members of our Church, who attend upon our ministry. He is also authorized to raise collections in the public congregations for the same purpose.

12th. At each Quarterly meeting, the Stewards shall make a written exhibit, to a meeting of the Church, of the state of the finances—the amount received from each class, and from other sources, together with the deficiency, if any, of each class. They shall also settle with their Presiding Elder and other ministers at each Quarterly meeting.

13th. At each annual meeting of the Circuit Stewards the name of each member shall be called, and strict inquiry be made into his fidelity and influence in carrying out our financial system. And if, for any cause, a member be found deficient, after sufficient trial, they shall authorize their chairman to report his case to the next Quarterly Conference.

14th. The Recording Steward of each Circuit and Station shall make a full report, through his representative, to the Joint Committee of Finance, of all the moneys received by his Board, and of the settlement with the Presiding Elder and other Preacher or Preachers, and also of the surplus money, if any, forwarded to them, together with the Conference Collection.

15th. Each Presiding Elder shall cause to be spread upon the Journal of the Quarterly Conference of each Circuit and Station of his District, and also upon the Journal of the District Stewards' meeting, a full copy of this financial plan. He shall also cause so much of it as relates to Circuit Stewards to be read in the Quarterly Conference, at each annual session at which the examination of character is held; and so much of it as relates to the District Steward's meeting, to be read at each annual meeting of the District Stewards.

T. N. RALSTON,	} Committee.
W. A. SMITH,	
J. BOYLE,	

A communication from the I. O. O. F., of St. Louis, expressive of sympathy in regard to the decease of I. Boring, was presented and read.

On motion of J. Early, the Publishing Committee of the Southern Christian Advocate were empowered to fix the salary of the Editor of Books and the Sunday-school journal; and the Publishing Committee of the Richmond Christian Advocate, to fix the salary of the Editor of the Quarterly Review.

A vote of thanks was unanimously passed to the ministers of other denominations tendering their pulpits for the use of the General Conference; and to the citizens of St. Louis for their cordial hospitalities; and to the Secretary and Assistant Secretary for their able and faithful services.

The Official Reporter of the Conference, the Rev. J. Cross, was also embraced in the foregoing vote, together with the Rev. N. Childs, Jr., who furnished the Conference with stationery and various personal attentions.

A motion to adjourn having prevailed, Bishop Capers offered an appropriate prayer; Bishop Paine pronounced the benediction; and thus closed the Second Session of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

The next session is to be held in Columbus, Ga., May 1, 1854.

JOSHUA SOULE,  
JAMES O. ANDREW,  
W. CAPERS,  
ROBERT PAINE,  
H. B. BASCOM.

THOS. O. SUMMERS, *Sec.*

DAVID J. ALLEN, *Asst. Sec.*

# INDEX

TO THE

## JOURNAL OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1846.

---

ADJOURNMENT, 103.

Africa, Missions to, 42.

Agent, Book, 90, 92, 94, 95, 100.

Agents, Assistant Book, 81, 82, 92, 100.

Alabama Conference boundaries, 102.

Appointee, 97.

Arkansas Conference boundaries, 102.

BATESVILLE memorial, 35.

Benevolent operations, Support of, 25, 28, 30.

Bible cause, Committee on, 15.

Bible cause, Report on, 77.

Bishops Capers and Paine's election and ordination, 22, 61.

Bishops, Southern, not infracted the Plan of Separation, 47.

Bishops' support, 28, 37, 98.

Bishops' travelling expenses, 29, 37.

Book Agent, 90, 92, 94, 95, 100.

Book Agents of M. E. Church, North, Communication from and reply to, 14, 31.

Book Committee, 90, 96.

Book Concern, Petitions for its location at Athens, Cincinnati, Louisville, Nashville, Norfolk, and Richmond, 13, 35, 40, 62.

Book Concern, Resolutions on, 90, 92.

Book Depositories, 90.

Books, Collections to enable the Agent to supply them, 100.

Border societies, stations, and conferences, 48.

Boundaries, Report on, 39, 43, 57, 76, 93, 101.

CAROLINA Conferences, Boundaries between North and South, 39, 57, 76.

Catechisms for colored missions, 23, 38.

Certificate, Missionary, 94.

Chaplain to Virginia University, 27.

Charleston Book Depository, 90.

China Mission, 37.

Cincinnati and Covington nominated for Western Division of Book Concern, 63.

Cincinnati Petition for Book Concern, 13.

Circuits and Stations, Small, 27, 35.

Collections for benevolent operations, 25, 28, 30.

Collections for Book Concern, 100.

Colored people, Evangelization of, 65.

Commissioners, 92, 96.

Committee of nine on Book Concern, 88, 89, 92, 102.

Committees, Standing, 12, 37.

Constitution of Missionary Society, 44.

Controversy between North and South, 96.

Covington Petition for Book Concern, 57.

DELEGATE to General Conference of M. E. Church, North, 100, 102.

Delegates' expenses, 21, 58.

Depositories, Book, 90.

Discipline, Arrangement of, 28, 68.

Discipline, Committee to prepare it for publication, 102.

Discipline, Report of Committee to conform it to Southern Organization, 20, 40, 70, 74.

Donations to Book Concern, 90.

EAST Texas Conference boundaries, 102.

Eastern Division of Book Concern, 62, 63.

Eastville Circuit, Va.—No infringement of Plan of Separation on it, 48.

Editors, 95.

Episcopacy, Committee on, instructed to inquire into the charges against Southern bishops of infracting Plan of Separation, 15.

Episcopacy, Reports of Committee on, to wit:

No. 1. On election of bishops, 22.

No. 2. On support of bishops, 28, 37.

No. 3. On charges against bishops of infracting Plan of Separation, 47.

No. 4. On Westmoreland memorial, 53.

Nos. 5, 6, 7. On Support of Bishops, 58, 88, 92, 98, 99.

Episcopacy, Strengthening the, 96.

FINANCE Committee Reports, to wit:

No. 1. On establishing a Book Concern, consisting of two Divisions, 19, 57, 62.

No. 2. Reply to Northern Book Agents, 31.

No. 3. On locating Book Concern at Richmond and Louisville, 54, 62, 63, 76, 81, 82.

No. 4. On Commissioners and Appointee, 64, 92, 96.

No. 5. On Periodicals, Charleston Depository, and Editors, 64, 94.

No. 6. On price of Periodicals, 72.

No. 7. On History of Organization of M. E. Church, South, 73.

Florida Conference boundaries, 102.

Fowler, Rev. L., widow and orphans of, 99.

GENERAL Conference, Members of, 5.

Georgia Conference boundaries, 102.

HOLSTON Conference boundaries, 101.

Holston Conference permitted to publish a paper, 91.

Holston Conference Resolutions on pewed churches, 62.

Hymn Book, Resolution concerning, 15, 28, 38, 102.

INDIAN Mission Conference boundaries, 101.

Itinerancy Committee Reports, to wit:

On Journals of Annual Conferences, 26, 28, 29.

On appointing travelling preachers to literary Institutions, 64.

On small circuits and stations, questions to be used in examination of character, and pewed churches, 35.

JEWS, Mission to, 25, 38.

KANAWHA District, No infringement of Plan of Separation on the, 48.  
 Kentucky Conference boundaries, 101.  
 Kentucky Conference, Division of, 17, 43, 57.

LITERARY Institutions, Committee on, 15, 21.  
 Literary Institutions, on appointing travelling preachers to, 37, 64.  
 Literary Institutions, Reports on, 41, 83.  
 Louisiana Conference boundaries, 102.  
 Louisville Conference boundaries, 101.  
 Louisville Conference, name of, 57.  
 Louisville Depository, 90.  
 Louisville, Western Division of Book Concern at, 54, 63.  
 Lumkin circuit, Ga., Conference Resolutions, 62.

MAYSVILLE District, Ky. Conference, 47.  
 Maysville Memorial, 12, 21, 34.  
 McKendree's Life, 90.  
 Members of General Conference, 5.  
 Memphis Conference boundaries, 101.  
 Memphis Conference Resolutions on pewed churches, 62.  
 Memphis nominated as location of Western Division of Book Concern, 63  
 Methodist E. Church, South, Organization of, 70.  
 Missionary Agent, 24, 36.  
 Missionary Certificate, 94.  
 Missionary Secretary, 44, 91.  
 Missionary Society's Constitution, 44.  
 Missions, Reports on, to wit :  
     No. 1. Support of Missions, 17, 20, 24.  
     No. 2. Catechisms, 23, 38.  
     No. 3. China Mission, 30, 37.  
     No. 4. Mission to the Jews, 30, 68.  
     No. 5. Relief of Texas preachers, 39.  
     No. 6. Mission to Africa, 42.  
     No. 7. Evangelization of colored people, 44, 65.  
     No. 8. Constitution of Missionary Society, 44.  
 Mississippi Conference boundaries, 102.  
 Missouri Conference boundaries, 101.

NASHVILLE nominated for Western Division of Book Concern, 62  
 Nashville petition for location of Book Concern, 13.  
 New Orleans, Provision respecting, 26, 29.  
 North Carolina Conference boundaries, 39, 57, 76, 81, 102.

ORDINATION of Bishops Capers and Paine, 61.

PASTORAL Address, 26, 30, 38, 93, 104.  
 Periodicals, Condition of, 74, 84.  
 Periodicals, Editors and Publishing Committees of, 94.  
 Periodicals, Price of, 30, 72, 95.  
 Periodicals—Resolutions on the jurisdiction of Southern General Conference  
     over them, 13, 94.  
 Petersburg hospitality to General Conference, 98.  
 Petersburg petition for location of Book Concern, 57.  
 Pewed Churches, 36, 62.  
 Plan of Separation not infringed by the South, 47.  
 President *pro tem.*, 5.  
 Presiding Elders, Limitation concerning the appointment of, 40.

QUARTERLY Review, 96.

Questions to be used by the Bishop in examining character, 27, 36.

RESOLUTIONS of S. Carolina Conference on evangelizing people of color, 27, 65.

Resolutions on Book Concern, 90.

Revisal Committee, 21.

Revisal Committee Reports, to wit:

No. 1. Alterations of Discipline, 40, 68-70.

No. 2. On Report of Revisal Committee, appointed by Louisville Convention, 70.

Richmond Christian Advocate, Report on, 87.

Richmond Depository, 90.

Richmond, Location for Eastern Division of Book Concern, 54, 63.

SECRETARY, Missionary, 44, 91.

Slavery, Section of Discipline on, 72, 74.

Soule, Bishop, adhered South, 8, 9, 25.

Soule, Bishop, requested to write Life of McKendree, 90.

South Carolina Conference boundaries, 39, 57, 76, 81, 102.

South Kentucky Conference, changed to Louisville Conference, 57.

Southern Christian Advocate, Report on, 84.

South-western Christian Advocate, Report on, 86.

Springfield embraced in Louisville Conference, 57.

St. Louis and St. Charles Districts, No infringement of Plan of Separation on, 47.

St. Louis Conference boundaries, 101.

St. Louis, seat of General Conference of 1850, 91.

Sunday-schools, 36, 38, 64.

TEMPERANCE, Committee on, 21.

Temperance, Report on, 58.

Tennessee Conference boundaries, 101.

Tenth Section of Discipline, 72, 74.

Texas Conference boundaries, 102.

Texas Conference, Missionary appropriations to, 39.

Texas Conference, Name of, 93.

Transylvania University, 16, 41, 83.

VIRGINIA Conference boundaries, 93, 102.

WESTERN Texas Conference changed to Texas Conference, 93.

Westmoreland Memorial, 40, 53.

# INDEX

TO THE

## JOURNAL OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1850.

---

- ADDRESS of Bishops, 130.  
Adjournment, 220.  
Agent, Book, 146, 211.  
Agents, Assistant Book, at Richmond and Louisville, 209, 211.  
Alabama Conference Resolutions on Book Concern, Sunday-school papers, and Lady's Magazine, 160.  
Allowance for preachers' children, Resolutions on, 152.  
American Bible Society, Committee on, 145.  
American Sunday-school Union, Books of, 157.  
Anonymous communications in church papers, 147.  
Assistant Editors dispensed with, 210.  
Assistant Missionary Treasurer at Charleston, Account of, 175.  
Ayes and Noes on Report of Committee on Revisals to expunge "Ninth Section," 213.
- BAPTISMAL Service, Resolution on altering, 151.  
Bequest of Mrs. Simons, 181, 185.  
Bequest of Rev. J. W. Bowman, 185.  
Bible Society, 128, 145, 183.  
Bishop Bascom's election and ordination, 180, 181, 187, 204.  
Bishops' Address, 130.  
Bishops and Chairmen of Committees requested to prepare and report the most important business promptly, in view of the cholera, 153.  
Bishops, Trial of, 170, 195.  
Book Agency, Resolution on, 183.  
Book Agent's Report, 146.  
Book Committee, 214.  
Book Concern, Resolutions of Alabama Conference on, 160.  
Book Editor, 183, 211, 220.  
Books and Periodicals, Committee on, 128, 148.  
Books and Periodicals, Price of, 150.  
Books and Periodicals, Profits from sale of, 152.  
Books and Periodicals, Report on, 174, 183.  
Books and Periodicals, Resolutions on, 156, 202.  
Boring, Isaac, Death of, 182-185, 196, 220.  
Boundaries, Committee on, 128.  
Boundaries, Reports on, to wit :  
    No. 1. On Western Virginia Conference, 149, 153.  
    No. 2. On boundaries of N. and S. Carolina Conferences, Indian Mission, St. Louis and Missouri Conferences, 159, 170, 207.  
    No. 3. On boundaries of Georgia and Holston Conferences, 181.  
    No. 4. On name and boundaries of Western Va. Conference, 208.  
Bowman's Bequest to African missions, 185.



- CALIFORNIA Mission**, 211.  
**Catawba Circuit**, Holston Conference, Memorial, 146.  
**Certificates of membership**, 166.  
**Charleston Depository abolished**, 209.  
**Cholera in St. Louis**, 152, 153.  
**Church Suits**, 164, 185.  
**Colportage**, Resolution on, 150.  
**Columbus**, seat of General Conference of 1854, 214.  
**Commissioners instructed to prosecute Church Suits**, 185.  
**Commissioners' Report**, 164, 172.  
**Commissioners substituted by Book Agent for publishing Review**, 209.  
**Committees, to wit:**  
     **On Bible Society**, 128, 145.  
     **On Books and Periodicals**, 128.  
     **On Boundaries**, 128.  
     **On Education**, 128, 145.  
     **On Episcopacy**, 128.  
     **On Expenses of Delegates**, 128, 145.  
     **On Finance**, 150, 154.  
     **On Itinerancy**, 128, 170.  
     **On Missions**, 128.  
     **On Northern Occupation of Southern Territory**, 145.  
     **On Petitions and Memorials**, 144.  
     **On Public Worship**, 127.  
     **On Report of Commissioners**, 165, 172.  
     **On Revisals**, 128, 145.  
     **On Sabbath-schools**, 128, 145.  
     **On Temperance**, 128, 145.  
     **To prepare Discipline and Journals for publication**, 214.  
     **To report on Cholera in St. Louis**, 153.  
     **To report Resolutions on I. Boring's death**, 183, 184.  
     **To superintend I. Boring's funeral**, 182, 183, 196.  
**Conference Journals**, Defects in, 197.  
**Course of Study**—Bishops requested to insert it in Discipline, 162, 213.  
**Covington, Ky.**, Petition, 144.  
  
**DEATH of Isaac Boring**, 182–185, 196, 220.  
**Dedication of Churches**, Committee on Revisals instructed to consider the propriety of preparing a Form for, 151, 161.  
**Defects in Conference Journals**, 197.  
**Delegate to Northern General Conference**, Report of, 188.  
**Delegates of 1850**, 123.  
**Deposition from ministry and retention in the church**, 182, 206.  
**Depository at Charleston abolished**, 209.  
**Depository petitioned for at New Orleans and St. Louis**, 163.  
**Discipline**, Expunged copy of, 214.  
**Dress**, Rule concerning, 156, 160.  
  
**EAST Texas Conference**, Defects in Journal of, 198.  
**East Texas Conference Resolutions on adoption of Wesleyan Banner, and change of name of Texas Conference**, 155, 161.  
**Editor of Books and Sunday-school paper**, 183, 211, 220.  
**Editors**, 211.  
**Editors, Assistant**, dispensed with, 210.  
**Editors' Visits to Conferences**, 170.  
**Education Committee**, 128, 145, 150, 153.  
**Education**, Report on, 198.

Episcopacy, Committee on, 128.

Episcopacy, Reports on, to wit :

No. 1. On character of Bishops, 157, 178, 195.

No. 2. On affliction of Bishop Soule, 157, 179.

No. 3. On election of a Bishop, 157, 179.

No. 4. On New Orleans Memorial and Decision of Bishop Capers in Alabama Conference, 157.

Nos. 5, 6, 7. On Support of Bishops, 193, 204-206.

Exhibit of Nashville Christian Advocate, 144.

Exhibit of Richmond Christian Advocate, 183.

Exhibit of Southern Christian Advocate, 145.

Expenses of Delegates, Committee on, 128, 145.

Expenses of Delegates, Report on, 212.

FINANCE Committee, 150, 154.

Finance, Report on, 214-219.

Financial Plan of Virginia Conference, 170.

Florida Conference Journal, Omissions in, 198.

GENERAL Conference opened, 125.

General Conference, Scheme for forming it in two houses, 146.

General Conference to meet in Columbus, Ga., 1854, 214.

Georgia Conference boundaries, 181.

Georgia Delegation's recognition of attentions paid I. Boring, 196.

Guyandotte District embraced in Western Virginia Conference, 208.

HARDINSBURG Memorial on transfer of Louisville District to Kentucky Conference, 160.

Holston Conference boundaries, 181.

Holston Conference Journal, Defects of, 198.

Holston Conference Memorial on adoption of Methodist Episcopalian, 150.

INDIAN Mission Conference boundaries, 207.

Indian Mission Conference Memorial, 144.

Itinerancy, Committee on, 128, 170.

Itinerancy, Reports on, to wit :

No. 1. On expunging provisos concerning stationing preachers and presiding elders, 148, 154.

No. 2. Recommitted, 148.

No. 3. On admitting probationers to office, 148, 154, 158.

No. 4. On labours of local preachers, 167.

No. 5. On petitioning for preachers, and opposition to transfers, 173.

No. 6. On employing Superannuated Ministers in Literary Institutions, 197.

No. 7. On Journals of Conferences, 197.

No. 8. On Deposition from the Ministry, 206.

JOURNALS of General Conferences of 1846 and 1850, to be published, 214.

Journals of General Conference of M. E. Church, Resolution concerning copying, 213.

KANSAS River District transferred, 207.

Kentucky Conference Memorials, 144, 153, 154.

LADY'S Companion, 209, 211.

Literary Institutions, On employing travelling preachers in, 197.

Local preachers, Labours of, 144, 162, 167.

Local preachers' Ordination, 152, 162.  
 Local preachers, Resolution concerning such as have lost their grace or usefulness, and whose characters are not passed by Quarterly Conference, 144, 150.  
 Location of a travelling preacher for misdemeanors, not allowed, 207.  
 Louisiana Conference Resolutions, 146.  
 Louisville, Assistant Book Agent at, 211.  
 Louisville Conference Resolution on locating Book Concern and Missionary Society at Louisville, 149.  
 Louisville District, Memorial concerning its transfer to Kentucky Conference, 160.  
 Louisville Memorial on Finance, 169.

MEMBERS on trial not eligible to office, 158.  
 Memphis Conference Resolutions on Book Concern, 146, 155.  
 Methodist Episcopalian, 150, 204, 212.  
 Methodist Expositor, 149, 203, 211.  
 Methodist P. Church, St. Louis, Communication from, 145.  
 Ministry, Support of, 150.  
 Missionary Secretary, 211.  
 Missionary Society Reports, 148.  
 Missions, Committee on, 128.  
 Missions, Reports on, to wit:  
     No. 1. On Duties of Missionary Secretary, 155.  
     No. 2. On California Missions, and other matters, 159, 211.  
     No. 3. On Missionary Reports, 172.  
 Mississippi Conference Journal, Defects of, 198.  
 Mississippi Conference Resolutions on a Monthly Periodical, and on Seating Churches, 152.  
 Missouri Conference boundaries, 207.  
 Missouri Conference Memorials on establishing Book Concern at St. Louis and reducing price of Periodicals, 149, 150.  
 Moderator of Presbyterian General Assembly, his Fraternal Address to the Conference—159, 163.  
 Monthly Journal of Biblical Literature projected, 152.

NASHVILLE Christian Advocate Editor, 211.  
 Nashville Christian Advocate exhibit, 144.  
 Nashville, Petition to locate Book Concern at, 157.  
 New Orleans, On establishing a Book Depository and Paper at, 163, 203, 204.  
 New Orleans, On Memorial from, 144, 157.  
 Ninth Section, 151, 178, 213, 214.  
 North Carolina Conference, action in a case of deposition from Ministry, 206.  
 North Carolina Conference boundaries, 159, 170, 208.  
 North Carolina Conference Journal, Defects in, 198.  
 North Carolina Conference Memorial on Boundaries, 144.

ODD FELLOWS' Communication on I. Boring's death, 220.  
 Omissions in Conference Journals, 197.  
 Ordinations to be recorded in Conference Journals, 198.

PADUCAH—Invitation to adjourn Conference thither if cholera should prevail in St. Louis, 156.  
 Paducah, Petitions to locate Book Concern at, 156.  
 Parkersburgh, seat of first Session of Western Virginia Conference, 153.  
 Periodicals, Resolution authorizing their multiplication, 210.  
 Periodicals, Resolution concerning the reduction of their number, 151.  
 Periodicals, Resolutions obliging them to be reported annually to the Book Agent, 202, 203, 212.

Petitioning for preachers discountenanced, 173.  
 Petitions and Memorials, Committee on, 144, 148.  
 Pewed churches, 151.  
 Presbyterian ministers introduced to Conference, 159.  
 Presses, fixtures, *etc.*, 202, 203.  
 Probationers for ministry—Resolution on furnishing them better facilities for preparing for the sacred office, 151.  
 Proceeds of Books and Periodicals, 156.  
 Property Question, 164, 185.  
 Protest of S. Carolina delegates in reference to changing boundaries of their Conference, 208.  
 Publishing Committee of Methodist Expositor, Memorial of, 149.

QUARTERLY Conference business, Arranging of, 163.  
 Quarterly Review, 202, 210, 211.  
 Quincy attached to Missouri Conference, 207.  
 Quincy Memorial, 144.  
 Quorum, None first day, 126.

RATIO of representation, Resolution on a change in, 156, 161.  
 Receiving persons into full connection, 151, 162.  
 References in cases of trial, 166.  
 Reporter of Conference, 127, 220.  
 Revisal Committee, 145.  
 Revisal Reports, to wit:

- No. 1. On St. Louis Conference Resolution, concerning manufacture and sale of spirituous liquors, and on other Resolutions, 148.
- No. 2. On changing the restriction concerning the time allowed the Bishop to continue a preacher in the same charge, and other matters, 160.
- No. 3. On arranging business of Quarterly Conferences under definite questions, and other matters, 166.
- No. 4. Proposing various alterations of Discipline originated in the Committee, 176, 213.
- No. 5. On Mississippi Resolution concerning seating congregations, and on a Resolution concerning trial of a Bishop, 176, 178.

Richmond, Assistant Agent at, 211.  
 Richmond C. Advocate exhibit and editor, 183, 211.  
 Richmond, Review located at, 211.  
 Rules of Conference, 129, 157.  
 Ruter Church, Texas, 170.

SABBATH-SCHOOLS, Committee on, 128, 145.  
 Sabbath-schools, Report on, 168.  
 Salaries of General Editor and Editor of Review—by whom fixed, 220.  
 Seating Churches, Resolution on, 151.  
 Secretary of Missionary Society, 169.  
 Sick members vote by proxy, 181.  
 Simons', Mrs., Bequest, 181, 185.  
 Sixth Restrictive Rule, Vote of Conferences on altering, 178.  
 Soule, Bishop, 155, 168, 179, 187, 203, 205.  
 Soule Chapel, Covington, Petition of, 144.  
 South Carolina Conference boundaries, 159, 170, 208.  
 South Carolina Conference Journal, Defects in, 198.  
 Southern C. Advocate exhibit and editor, 145, 211.  
 Southern Lady's Companion, 209, 211.  
 Southern Territory invaded by Northern Church, 144, 145.  
 Special Committee on Northern occupation of Southern Territory, 144, 145.

- St. Louis Conference boundaries, 207.  
St. Louis Conference Financial Plan, 156.  
St. Louis Conference Journal, Defects in, 198.  
St. Louis Conference Memorials, 146.  
St. Louis, Memorial and Resolutions on locating Book Depository and paper at, 163, 210.  
Stewards—Resolution proposing to hold them responsible in regard to seating churches, 151.  
Sunday-school Paper, 160, 210, 211.
- TEMPERANCE, Committee on, 128, 145.  
Tennessee Conference Resolutions praying for Book Concern at Nashville, 157.  
Texas Conference Resolutions on adoption of Wesleyan Banner, 150.  
Texas Wesleyan Banner, 150, 155, 204, 212.  
Thanks voted for the use of pulpits, and for hospitality of citizens of St. Louis, 220.  
Time and place of General Conference of 1854, 214.  
Transfers, 173.  
Transylvania University, Report of Trustees of, 146.  
Transylvania University, Report of Committee on, 198.  
Treasurer, Assistant Missionary, at Charleston, Accounts of, 175.  
Treasurer Missionary Society, 169.  
Trials of Ministers, Resolution proposing a change of Discipline on, 151.  
Trustees, Eligibility to office of, 152.  
Trustees, Report on, 160.
- VIRGINIA Conference Financial Plan, 170.  
Virginia Conference Journals, Omissions in, 198.  
Vote of thanks to friends who defrayed expenses of I. Boring's funeral, 196.
- WESTERN Virginia Conference boundaries, 153, 208.  
Western Virginia Conference, Formation of, 153.  
Western Virginia, Memorial from, 202, 208.

THE END.